

PHONES IN TRUST

Attorney General Says Talking Facilities Monopolized.

Sues for Dissolution of So-called Bell Telephone Trust.

STARTS SUIT IN PORTLAND

Pacific Coast Conditions Said to Be Worse Than Elsewhere.

Many Illegal Practices Said to Have Stifled Competition.

Portland, Ore., July 25.—Dissolution of the alleged telephone monopoly on the Pacific coast by the American Telephone and Telegraph company—so-called Bell telephone trust—is sought by Attorney General McReynolds in the civil anti-trust suit filed here.

The government charges the giant corporation and its subsidiaries with absorbing independent telephone companies to destroy competition and create a monopoly in Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho, in violation of the Sherman law.

This is the first attempt ever made to apply the federal anti-trust statutes to the telephone situation. Telephone companies have claimed that the telephone, like the railroad system, is a natural monopoly and that a single system is conducive to the best interests of the public. The department of justice contends that is a question of public policy for congress to determine.

It is declared that the suit filed will not interfere with the state investigation proposed by the interstate commerce commission into the general telephone situation to determine whether the Sherman law should be invoked generally with the purpose of enforcing competition, or whether monopoly should be permitted or encouraged under regulations similar to that of railroads.

Compel Bell Company to Let Go. This step was taken in the west because the attorney general believed there existed a peculiar situation demanding immediate attention to cure evils said to have been brought about by unfair practices and illegal combinations. The attorney general asks the court to compel the Bell companies to relinquish control of the Independent Telephone company, of Seattle; the Home Telephone company, of Portland; the Northwest Long Distance Telephone company; the Interstate Consolidated Telephone company; the Independent Long Distance Telephone company.

If necessary to accomplish the dissolution the court is asked to appoint a receiver for the properties. Attorney General McReynolds well known views that the pro rata distribution of the stock in the oil and tobacco trusts did not bring about a real dissolution of these combinations, are strongly reflected in this suit in which he specifically requests the court to order the alleged telephone trust to dispose of the stocks, bonds and physical properties of the independents "to persons not connected with the Bell companies as stockholders or otherwise." He asks for restoration as far as practicable of competitive conditions existing prior to the consolidations and that the Bell companies, their officers and agents be enjoined from acquiring control in the companies referred to.

Independents Treated Unfairly. Bell companies, by reducing rates below a paying basis by giving free service and by threats, it is alleged, have forced several important companies, forming links in the long distance system of the Northwestern company, to violate their contracts for connections with the Northwestern company and to give their business exclusively to the Bell concerns. He asks for restoration of the connections those severed, the government declares all interstate messages were sent by the Bell companies over their own lines, except where the senders specifically requested that they be sent by the Northwestern. Even in the latter cases it is alleged the delivery of the messages to the Northwestern was delayed and frequently patrons of the Northwestern were told that that company did not serve certain points, which, in fact, it did reach.

This concern, it is alleged, was acquired at a foreclosure sale through a contract with William Mead, controlling the majority of the stock of the Home, Mead, who organized a committee, with himself as the head, to represent holders of \$121,800 of the bonds of the Home, "said to have represented to the bondholders that the property was not worth the amount of their bonds and that it would be better for him not to bid in their behalf at the foreclosure sale."

It is alleged he contracted with the Bell interests not to bid at the sale on behalf of the bondholders, and suffered the property to go to the combination, receiving for his services, it is declared, \$33,000 and the conveyance of certain property in Tacoma, valued at \$15,000, to the National Securities company, owned chiefly by himself, Mead, as treasurer of the Northwestern company, is alleged to have entered into an agreement with the Bell company to procure for them control of at least two-thirds of the stocks and bonds and the physical properties of the Northwestern.

KIDNAPS YOUNG GIRL. Stranger Finally Releases Her—She Returns Home Exhausted. Hutchinson, Kan., July 25.—When pretty Erma Allen, 12 years of age, finished the supper dishes at her home about 8 o'clock, she ran into the backyard to see where the other children were playing.

As she neared the rear of the lot, a big man sprang from behind the barn and grabbed her, at the same time throwing a cloth over her head. "Papa!" screamed the girl. The man clamped the rag in the child's mouth and ran up in his arms, started to run, going west. After some distance he let the child walk, but kept the cloth tightly wound about her face so that she could not speak or see.

The kidnaper did not say a word but kept going north and west, taking the alleys for his route. After they had walked about an hour, the man stopped and throwing

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The night performance was not so badly crowded, but even at that nearly every available place was filled. It is estimated that at least 25,000 people saw the show at one or the other of the performances. About that many people were hauled to the grounds by the street railway company during the day. Many of those who went were out of town people who came here partly for the circus and partly to secure the benefits of bargain week.

Many of them are still here today, and are busy making purchases at the various stores. "Gimme two tickets," said a small boy in front of the ticket wagon before the opening of the evening performance. Standing on tip-toe, he had deposited a handful of nickels and dimes on the high shelf in front of the ticket seller. A long line of people were waiting, money in hand, to buy tickets, but the circus man carefully counted the coins and searched out the small boy by peering over the counter and letting his gaze follow up the clew indicated by the small upraised hand, which was all that was visible, he inquired:

"Where's the other fellow?" "Standing over there," replied the kid. "Bring him up here and let me see him, may be he can go for half price," demanded the circus man.

The small boy darted back in the crowd. "Here, take your money with you," shouted the showman. The boy grabbed the returned money and reappeared with another other about his own size, and again dropped the "chicken feed" on the counter.

"That's fair," said the ticket man, giving the boy two tickets and half his money back. Circus Notes. When the swarm of clowns entered the track, it didn't take the Topeka contingent long to recognize Lew Plamondin, the pig-tailed Chinaman of the bunch, and he answered a hundred calls of "Hello Lew" by a wave of the hand or a flip of his head piece. Lew Plamondin was born and reared in Topeka, and has been an acrobat and clown ever since he was old enough

to get a job. For many years he was part of an aerial ladder performance which was a hair raiser. He was accompanied in the trick by his brother, "Judy" Plamondin, and they were featured in several big circuses, including "Ringlings". Eight years ago "Judy" died of peritonitis in a Topeka hospital. After that Lew could not find a satisfactory partner for the dangerous ladder act, and although he tried it several seasons, was never satisfied with any substitute for brother "Judy." The stunt of balancing a tray of dishes on a pole and letting the whole works fall toward the audience is a rather old one, and clowns in nearly every circus imitate it, but it was invented by "Judy" Plamondin about ten years ago, and is still used by Lew.

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Morris weighs 225 pounds, having 30 pounds advantage over Benedict. "Hunt" Benedict, manager of Jeff Clarke, claimant to the middleweight championship, today announced that he will challenge Morris to meet Clarke.

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At the afternoon performance more than 15,000 secured admission. Before the show opened, inasmuch as many were compelled to find places to sit in the hippodrome track, announcement was made that those who were dissatisfied might either return their money back or a ticket for the night performance. Quite a number went out, taking one or the other.

The night performance was not so badly crowded, but even at that nearly every available place was filled. It is estimated that at least 25,000 people saw the show at one or the other of the performances. About that many people were hauled to the grounds by the street railway company during the day. Many of those who went were out of town people who came here partly for the circus and partly to secure the benefits of bargain week.

Many of them are still here today, and are busy making purchases at the various stores. "Gimme two tickets," said a small boy in front of the ticket wagon before the opening of the evening performance. Standing on tip-toe, he had deposited a handful of nickels and dimes on the high shelf in front of the ticket seller. A long line of people were waiting, money in hand, to buy tickets, but the circus man carefully counted the coins and searched out the small boy by peering over the counter and letting his gaze follow up the clew indicated by the small upraised hand, which was all that was visible, he inquired:

"Where's the other fellow?" "Standing over there," replied the kid. "Bring him up here and let me see him, may be he can go for half price," demanded the circus man.

The small boy darted back in the crowd. "Here, take your money with you," shouted the showman. The boy grabbed the returned money and reappeared with another other about his own size, and again dropped the "chicken feed" on the counter.

"That's fair," said the ticket man, giving the boy two tickets and half his money back. Circus Notes. When the swarm of clowns entered the track, it didn't take the Topeka contingent long to recognize Lew Plamondin, the pig-tailed Chinaman of the bunch, and he answered a hundred calls of "Hello Lew" by a wave of the hand or a flip of his head piece. Lew Plamondin was born and reared in Topeka, and has been an acrobat and clown ever since he was old enough

to get a job. For many years he was part of an aerial ladder performance which was a hair raiser. He was accompanied in the trick by his brother, "Judy" Plamondin, and they were featured in several big circuses, including "Ringlings". Eight years ago "Judy" died of peritonitis in a Topeka hospital. After that Lew could not find a satisfactory partner for the dangerous ladder act, and although he tried it several seasons, was never satisfied with any substitute for brother "Judy." The stunt of balancing a tray of dishes on a pole and letting the whole works fall toward the audience is a rather old one, and clowns in nearly every circus imitate it, but it was invented by "Judy" Plamondin about ten years ago, and is still used by Lew.

Carl Morris to Fight Will Meet Al Benedict in Joplin—Jeff Clarke Challenges. Joplin, Mo., July 25.—Carl Morris, the Oklahoma white hope, and Al Benedict of Brooklyn, N. Y., will meet here in a fifteen round ring battle tonight. Both men have been training here for the last week and are in excellent condition for the bout.