

COMMISSION INQUIRY WILL BE CONTINUED

May Order Readjustment of Rates of Telephone and Telegraph Companies.

FEDERAL OWNERSHIP BILL

Lewis Asks Congress to Frame Measure for Taking Over Control of Lines.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Settlement of the threatened Sherman law suit against the American Telephone and Telegraph Company will not relieve that company or the telephone companies from the investigation which the Interstate Commerce Commission now has under way.

There is still the possibility of the Interstate Commerce Commission insisting upon a readjustment of rates and a regulation of the affairs of the telephone and telegraph companies just as was done in the case of the express companies.

Since January last the commission has had a corps of experts at work particularly investigating the affairs of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Within the last few days these data have been completed and the report will begin some time in February, probably in Chicago.

Attorney-General McReynolds has not taken up with the representatives of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company as yet the method by which the company will dispose of the \$30,000,000 of Western Union stock owned by it.

The belief here is that the attorney-general eventually will insist upon an absolute sale of this stock to outsiders just as he did in the case of the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific merger, and as he has insisted in the Harvester Trust and other anti-trust suits.

McReynolds to Trust Officers. The attorney-general will rely on the officers of the company to present a satisfactory plan for divesting it absolutely from its holdings in the Western Union.

Most of the proposals to which the American company assented in its agreement with the government came from the attorney-general himself and were not voluntary.

Mr. McReynolds was highly pleased with the results of his negotiations. He believes the public and the independent companies have derived much more from this amicable settlement than they would have obtained after months and perhaps years of litigation.

The two chief grounds of complaint of the independent companies were that their credit was impaired through the alleged unfair practices of the so-called Bell company and that they were unable to obtain connections over the Bell lines for their subscribers. Both these objections are met in the concessions made by the American company.

The attorney-general has not taken up as yet the question of the American and Western Union companies operating from the same office in many towns and cities. Mr. McReynolds is assuming that the American company will be able to place in good faith and that the relations between the two companies will become absolutely independent.

The Postal lines have frequently complained of unfair practices as the result of the cooperation between the telephone company and the Western Union.

The question of Government ownership of the telephone lines has been brought to the attention of Congress today when Representative David J. Lewis of Maryland, author of the parcel post bill, offered a resolution instructing the House Committee on Post Offices to report a bill vesting in the United States a monopoly of the function of communication for wire by electricity.

Lewis Argues for Federal Lines. Mr. Lewis advocated Government ownership of such utilities. He presented statistics bearing on the operation of the telegraphs under Government auspices in other countries.

He contended that Government ownership would result in lower charges for telegraph service and otherwise bestow benefits on the public. Mr. Lewis asserted that postal rates in the United States "are among the lowest in the world," while the rates for telegrams "are among the highest and the long distance communication from four to six times the rates prevailing elsewhere."

WALL STREET PRICES SOAR ON WIRE ACTION

Government's New Attitude Toward Big Business Causes Heavy Buying.

TELEPHONE GOES UP 73-4

Sales of 310,000 Shares Make Biggest Half Day Session in Months.

END WAS SEEN, SAYS MACKAY.

Nothing Else Expected in Attempt to Throttle Competition.

Clarence H. Mackay, president of the Mackay Companies, speaking of the agreed separation of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Western Union Telegraph Company, said: "It has been a bitterly fought contest. The result is a gratifying solution of the whole trouble. We hope and believe it will work out as far as further cause for complaint may exist either on the part of the public or on our part."

"Anybody with any perspective at all could have seen during the last few years that there would be an end to a huge combination whose chief purpose was to throttle competition in order to control and monopolize. We feel grateful to the administration and particularly to Attorney-General McReynolds for the result."

TEASING MADDENS CONVICT.

Fractures Skull of One of His Tormentors With Hatchet.

OSWINGO, N. Y., Dec. 20.—Maddened by the teasing of other convicts in Sing Sing Michael Sullivan attacked Peter Lagatuta, his nearest tormentor, with a hatchet. He fractured the man's skull. The assault took place in the shipping department. There were eighteen or twenty prisoners in the room at the time. Sullivan, who is 29 years old, was sentenced from New York county on May 12 last to ten to twenty years for manslaughter. Lagatuta, who is 27 years old, was sentenced for burglary to two years and six months to five years.

HOYT DROPS DIVORCE SUIT.

Rich Manufacturer Had Complained of Coldness of Bride.

Supreme Court Justice Ford signed an order yesterday discontinuing a suit for divorce brought by Arthur S. Hoyt, president of the Arthur S. Hoyt Chocolate Company and the Arthur S. Hoyt Candy Company, manufacturers of starch, against Mrs. Estelle C. Hoyt.

The Hoyts were married on February 25 last and parted after a six weeks honeymoon. Hoyt alleged that his wife was cold and unresponsive from the time they were married, while she said he made her life unhappy by unreasonable jealousy.

The order discontinuing the suit was filed just after an order to take testimony in behalf of the plaintiff in Chicago was signed. The attorney in the case refused to discuss the circumstances under which the suit was dropped. Hoyt is worth \$500,000 and has a net worth of \$200,000.

Man's Body in Fire Ruins.

The charred body of a man supposed to be Charles Thorne, a watchman, was found yesterday morning in the ruins of a coalhouse on the Great Neck Estates, Long Island.

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WILSON PLANS TO UPLIFT BUSINESS

Continued from First Page.

"Do you think the agreement has upon the movement toward government ownership of telephone and telegraph lines?" "I can only say," was the answer, "that the effect will be at least a tendency toward lessening the power of such a movement. As for our agreement ending all business depression, I could not make so bold a statement for the reason that so many other conditions must be taken into account that no one agreement, even when of the importance of the one being discussed, cannot be said of itself to be capable of making right all that is wrong. But I do believe that the agreement and the manner in which it was brought about will have a good general effect."

Mr. Vail was told that he had been quoted as saying that when the American Telephone and Telegraph Company comes to dispose of its Western Union stock the stock first would be offered to Western Union stockholders.

"I made no such definite statement," replied Mr. Vail. "That would be practically the same as saying that we had made some sort of deal with the Government, which is absurd."

"No one is in a position now to give in detail the process of stock disposal. The correspondence between the Government and our company covers fully, I think, about all that is to be said just at the present time."

"Work upon what is to be done in the near future is now under way. A great deal of hard work, needless to say, will be necessary before detailed plans of this and other matters under way can be announced definitely."

Mr. Vail and his associates, it was said yesterday, have no intention of going into the telegraph business, as has been suggested. Once separated from the Western Union, they say, a tremendous organization would have to be built up to run a telegraph company in conjunction with the telephone work.

In their argument against the Government taking over their lines various telephone and telegraph officials pointed out yesterday that in the case of the Government's difficulties of building up organizations to handle the lines would be twofold. The Government, they said, would have on its hands the great expense, time and labor associated with the rebuilding of two such organizations for the telephone and the other for the telegraph lines, and each of the magnitude of the present post office system.

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FEAR PHONE MERGER DEFEAT.

Indianapolis Business Men Had Hoped for One Service Only.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 20.—Business men who have been urging a merger of the Bell and independent telephone companies in this city fear that the agreement made by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company will delay and ultimately defeat the proposed merger, but they are insisting that the negotiations proceed and that the duplication of service and the consequent increased cost shall cease.

Business men and others who use the telephone much have to take the service of each company, and there is a strong demand that but one company be permitted to operate in the city.

TWO FACTORIES CUT WAGES.

Employees of New Jersey Plants Appeal to Labor Federation.

The Federal Terra Cotta Company of Woodbridge, N. J., has announced a reduction in wages of its employees of from 15 to 40 per cent.

The Central Labor Union of Middlesex county has enlisted the American Federation of Labor in its behalf, as the employees argue that as the company has the contract for the terra cotta work in the new Equitable Life Building in Manhattan and other large contracts it is well able to pay the old rate of wages.

The Physics Ceramic Company of Metuchen has placed its employees on piecework instead of the old system of straight wages. There is great dissatisfaction among the workmen, who say they cannot make as much as under the wage system. They have also enlisted the aid of the American Federation.

STERN BROTHERS

Forty-second and Forty-third Streets, West of Fifth Avenue

Motor and Carriage Entrance on Forty-third Street

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, will be held Clearing Sales of remaining Holiday Stocks at Greatly Reduced Prices.

Unusual Price Advantages in the Jewelry Departments

A large collection of Desirable Gifts in Art Objects, China & Bric-a-Brac

On the Fourth Floor

Bronze and Marble Statuary, depicting classic and modern subjects; Miniatures on Ivory; Limoges Enamels, Dutch Silver, Porcelain and Crystal Vases; Onyx and Marble Pedestals; Drawing Room, Library and Boudoir Clock Sets and Electroliers; Lamps, Lamps and Candle Shades; French, English, Austrian, German, Russian and Gironi China; Engraved, Gilt, Etched and Rock Crystal Tableware.

Specially priced, beginning To-morrow: Pictures, copies of old masterpieces found in the European museums, in antique gilt finish frames, at \$3.95

Quaint Pottery from England, Holland, Vienna and Italy. At prices ranging from 1.50 to 6.50

Real Bronzes from Paris. \$14.00, 30.00, 39.00

Berlin, Vienna and Japan. Former prices from \$21.00 to 49.00

Art Bronze Electric Figures. 9.50, 14.00, 19.00

Reduced from \$15.00, 21.00 and 25.00

Umbrellas and Canes

From a very large collection of Imported and Domestic Umbrellas, Canes, Parasols and Separate Handles, in entirely new and exclusive designs, suitable for Holiday Gifts, the following very desirable selections will be placed on sale

Also for To-morrow, a Very Attractive Offering of Women's Walking Gloves, One Clasp Pique and Prix Seam Sewn, in tan, white and black.

At 85c Pair

Women's Blouses

To-morrow, on the Third Floor, Very Special Values in

Blouses, of Sheer Batiste or Voile, high or low neck, elaborately trimmed with laces or embroideries, at \$1.85, 2.95

Black Silk Blouses, of Messaline, with net yokes or tailored models, open front or back, long sleeves, at \$3.95, 4.85

Chiffon Blouses, in all desirable suit shades, at \$5.00

Blouses, of Georgette Chiffon and fine Shadow Lace combined with embroidered or plain net, exact copies of Imported Models, \$9.75, 11.50, 15.50

An Exceptional Sale, on the Second Floor, of Women's House Gowns

House Gowns, of Crepe de Chine, trimmed with lace and chiffon, Value \$17.00, at \$11.75

House Gowns, of Albatross, Empire model, accordion pleated skirt, Value \$8.00, at 5.95

Japanese Quilted Robes, collarless model, elaborately embroidered, at 6.00, 9.75

Value \$12.00 and 15.00

Japanese Quilted Robes, collar or collarless model, Value \$9.50, at 5.25

Also a collection of Imported House Gowns and Negligees, at Corresponding Reductions.

- Bracelet
- Watches
- Rings
- Neck Chains
- Lavallieres
- Locketts
- Brooches
- Scarfpins
- Hand Pins
- Baby Pins
- Cuff Links
- Bracelets
- Combs
- Fans
- Hat Pins
- Cigar Cutters
- Match Boxes
- Leather Goods
- Suit Cases
- Hand Bags
- Mirrors
- Razors
- Powder Boxes
- Mesh Bags
- Card Cases
- Child's Mugs
- Napkin Rings
- Gas Portables
- Dinner Gongs
- Smoking Sets
- Lemon Dishes
- Sherbet Cups
- Candlesticks
- Student Lamps
- Nappies
- Ice Cream Trays
- Olive Dishes
- Dolls
- Infants' Wear
- Bootees
- Games
- Toy Books
- Carving Sets
- Lamp Shades
- Ribbons
- Millinery
- House Coats
- Dressing Gowns
- Slippers
- Kimonos
- Gloves
- Neckwear
- Sweaters
- Underwear
- Shirts
- Hosiery
- Suspenders
- Pictures
- Lace
- Handkerchiefs
- Linen
- Handkerchiefs
- Laces
- Furs
- Perfumery
- Silverware
- Book Racks
- Toilet Articles
- Dinner Sets
- Game Sets
- Chocolate Sets
- Fruit Sets
- Cake Sets
- Cracker Jars
- Fern Dishes
- Chop Plates
- Cake Plates
- Jardiniere
- Umbrella Stands
- Cut Glass
- Claret Pitchers
- Water Pitchers
- Celery Trays
- Tea Sets
- Calendars
- Stationery
- Desk Sets
- Upholstery
- Lace Doilies
- Lace Scarfs
- Centre Pieces
- Table Covers
- Photo Frames
- Picture
- Bill Folders
- Wallets
- Pocketbooks
- Jewel Boxes
- Collar Bags
- Cuff Cases
- Sewing Boxes
- Flasks
- Diaries
- Umbrellas
- Rain Coats
- Rubbers
- Knives
- Key Chains
- Tie Clasps
- Gold Pencils
- Cigarette Cases
- Thimbles
- Barettes
- Marble Busts
- Vases
- Bronze Busts
- Clocks
- Electroliers
- Lace Curtains
- Portieres
- Waist Boxes
- Screens
- Rugs
- Waists
- Ribbons
- Mufflers
- Lace Neckwear
- Frames
- Berry Spoons
- Cold Meat
- Forks

Christmas Cards & Calendars

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