

BIG HORN LINE IS COMPLETED

Sheridan and Northern Wyoming Placed in Long Distance Connection Yesterday Afternoon.

FREE TALK TO SHERIDAN

Inauguration of New Line Will Be Celebrated by Three Days of Free Conversation Between Billings and Wyoming City.

Yesterday afternoon at 3:30 the first telephone conversation ever held between Billings and Sheridan, Wyo., took place when Editor Edwards of the Sheridan Enterprise called up the Gazette office and extended to this paper and the people of Billings the season's greetings and in turn secured the congratulations of the people of Billings that Sheridan is now in communication by telephone with the outside world and that another great step has been taken in developing this section of the northwest.

The conversation took place over the wires of the Rock Mountain Bell Telephone company, and the line over which Mr. Edwards' words came as clearly and distinctly as if he were talking face to face is what is known as the "Big Horn Mountain line," and has just been completed at a cost of something over \$60,000 by the Bell company. The line extends from Sheridan to Basin, Wyo., where connections are made with Billings and other points on the toll system of the Bell company. Its construction has been a great undertaking and by it the people of Sheridan are not only put in telephonic connection with Billings and the cities of Montana but are also delivered from the isolation which has heretofore separated them from the cities of the Big Horn basin and the capital of the state. Service will also be inaugurated between Sheridan and Denver and other Colorado points as well as New Mexico and Arizona points covered by the Colorado Telephone company.

The building of the Bell line from Basin to Sheridan has been, according to District Plant Chief Hill of the local office, one of the greatest undertakings attempted by his company. The new line runs 66 miles over some of the roughest mountain country in Wyoming; in fact the engineers who have during the past summer had the work of building the line in charge, say that fully a third of the holes for the posts had to be blasted in solid rock.

The line leaves Basin and follows Shell Creek for several miles, but soon leads straight across the mountains for Sheridan. Nearly 4,000 6-inch cedar posts, each 25 feet high, have been used in building the line, and these posts support No. 8 copper wires which make the line one of the best in the West.

In order that the people of Sheridan and Billings may be given an opportunity to test the line the company has announced that for the next three days, beginning with this morning, no charges will be made for the use of the wire, and all the people of Billings will be welcome to call up their friends in Sheridan and talk to them. It is expected that this announcement will keep the new wires busy during the three days, but the company is anxious to have the people of the city know that at last Sheridan, one of the largest and most prosperous cities of Wyoming, is on the telephone map, and has accordingly adopted this novel method of advertising the fact. It has been pointed out that in addition to furnishing a medium for business conversations, the new line will also be a great help to the many Billings people who are interested in the Sheridan coal mines or who have other business interests in that section of northern Wyoming.

RESCUER ARRIVES CLAD IN DRAWERS

Scentily Attired George Sanders Answers Woman's Cries For Aid and Thrashes A. Brunswick.

Awakened by a woman's cries for aid George Sanders, who lives at the corner of Twenty-Fifth street and First avenue South, last night piled out of bed and clad only in his underclothing went to the basement home of Mrs. Mary McLeod, a few doors distant, where Mrs. McLeod's sister Albert Brunswick, who owns considerable property on the South side the "thrashing of his life" as he expressed it. As a result Brunswick is behind the bars of the city jail whether he was taken by Officer Schneider. Mrs. McLeod will appear against him this morning when he will be brought before Judge Mann for a preliminary hearing.

Mrs. McLeod says that she rented her basement home from Brunswick about a week ago, paying him the rent in advance, and that since that time he has been trying to force his attentions upon her. Last night he, madened by her threats to call the police if he persisted in his attentions, struck her with his fist; a statement borne up by a very black eye; and was in the act of choking her when Sanders appeared on the scene and proceeded to throw Brunswick out doors and into a snowbank after which he gave Brunswick the afore-mentioned thumping.

Mrs. McLeod declares that Sanders saved her life and she will prosecute her amorous landlord to the limit.

REGISTER HELENA LANDOFFICE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Stephen Carpenter was today named for register of the Helena, Mont., landoffice, vice Frank Mirac. Mr. Carpenter has long been known as a prominent man in Montana affairs.

MAYOR DID NOT ENDORSE REPORT

Error Committed in Attaching H. J. Thompson's Name to Findings of Committee.

MAJORITY STANDS PAT

Criticism of City's Executive for Declaring That Shipping Facilities Are at Normal Not Justified, Say Members of Committee.

On account of a rather excusable misunderstanding Mayor H. J. Thompson, appointed at a recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce as a member of the committee to investigate local shipping conditions, was placed in a false light when his name appeared at the bottom of the report as published in last Saturday's Gazette.

A representative of the Gazette received a carbon copy of the report. The report bore no signatures. Presuming that the report had been approved, inasmuch as it had been submitted in the name of the members of the committee were added. Secretary H. M. Brayton of the Chamber of Commerce has made the following statement concerning the report: "To the Editor of The Gazette: "In justice to the Mayor, Mr. H. J. Thompson, the following statement is made:

"The committee of the Billings Chamber of Commerce selected to look into the matter of freight shipments into and out of Billings at the present time made report of their findings to me to be written up and signed by the members of the committee. The report was given me by Messrs. Kell and Walker, who said that they had asked that the mayor accompany them in the investigation, but that he was unable to do so at the time. On this account they requested that the draft of the report be submitted to him for his signature.

"Before any of the signatures were secured the representative of The Gazette called for the report and, in order to accommodate him and have the report published at the earliest possible moment, he was furnished with an unsigned copy, from which publication was made. Respectfully,

H. M. BRAYTON, "Secretary Billings Chamber of Commerce."

In regard to the criticism of the switchmen that they were not consulted by the members of the committee the following statement has been issued by Messrs. F. E. Kell and John Walker, the two members of the committee of three who drafted the report:

"Billings, Mont., Dec. 20, 1909.

"The committee appointed by the Billings Chamber of Commerce to inquire into the movement of freight into and out of Billings, and particularly with reference to coal shipments, was not instructed to investigate into the merits of the switchmen's strike.

"According to the records of the Northern Pacific Railway company, Mr. Walker and Mr. Kell of this committee represent the two largest freight accounts in Billings and it required no special investigation to inquire into the movement of freight into and out of the city under the conditions in regard to the handling of freight shipments.

"Both firms are receiving and shipping large quantities of freight daily and are experiencing no unusual delay. We called on some of the largest coal dealers and they reported that there was no unusual delay at the present time.

"We did not interview the striking switchmen, as we were instructed to investigate the movement of freight into and out of the city, and to report to the shippers for our information.

(Signed) "JOHN WALKER, "F. E. KELL."

MOSELEY MAY RECOVER

It was reported from the hospital last evening that P. A. Moseley, the young man who shot himself Wednesday of last week was in a slightly better condition than he was Sunday. While it is admitted that the young man may recover the physician in charge is not optimistic and declares that he will have a hard struggle to survive.

BOUGHT FARM ON TIPS

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 20.—With "tips" gained as usher at the Union station, Frank Bernly, until last night in charge of the usher corps, has purchased a farm near Brandon, Mo., for \$2,000. Bernly was usher at the station for seven years. He has resigned to work on his farm.

ONE NEGRO CREMATED

(Continued from Page One.)

The marshal was shot in the head and severely wounded here today.

Orders Out Troops. SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 20.—Governor Deneen this noon issued orders to eight companies of the Fourth Infantry of Illinois National Guard to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to East St. Louis or Belleville, to protect the negro prisoners there under arrest on suspicion of murdering the conductor of a street car at East St. Louis in a holdup Saturday night.

Calls For Aid. ST. LOUIS, Dec. 20.—Sheriff Cashel of St. Clair county Ills., today asked Governor Deneen for troops to protect the jail at Belleville, where Will Clark, the negro suspected of shooting two street car employes of East St. Louis Saturday night is held prisoner.

Rumors that a lynching was being planned in East St. Louis led the sheriff to take this step.

REGISTER HELENA LANDOFFICE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Stephen Carpenter was today named for register of the Helena, Mont., landoffice, vice Frank Mirac. Mr. Carpenter has long been known as a prominent man in Montana affairs.

B. R. T. HAD NO PART IN STRIKE

So Declares Vice President Whitney of Trainmen, Who Was in Billings Last Evening.

CONTROL LOCAL YARDS

Trainmen and Not Switchmen Are in Majority and Had Eight to Decide Local Standpoint—Basis Will Not Affect West.

"The trainmen have no part in the strike of the switchmen's union and those of our order who went out when the switchmen ordered a strike were in the wrong. I am glad to learn that all these men have returned to work and that conditions here are back to normal."

These are the words of First Vice President Whitney of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, who was in the city for a few hours yesterday evening and who left on No. 4 for his home in Cleveland, where he will spend the holidays with his family. Mr. Whitney was met at the depot by a delegation of about 20 of the local members of the order, to whom he delivered a short speech. In an interview with a representative of The Gazette he said:

"The members of the switching crews employed in Billings are for the greater part members of the trainmen's union. They hold the majority and they had the right to fix the local standpoint on the strike. The few who went out with the switchmen were misdirected and they have to a man returned to work. Our union has no part whatever with the switchmen, and the last thing the trainmen will do will be to strike. Our union will exhaust every other available means before we will call a strike and injure those who are not connected with either side of the question.

Mr. Whitney refused entirely to discuss the justice or injustice of the demands of the switchmen or the manner in which the strike was called, except to disclaim any connection of his union with it. He is on his way home from Spokane, and he stated that he had been reliably informed that while the effects of the strike were still to be felt to some small degree in the Twin Cities and in Great Falls that on other points on the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern freight business was at normal.

AGITATION FAVORS ANOTHER CROSSING

Southwestern Residents Want to Know When Thirty-fifth Street Will Be Opened.

"We people of the southwestern portion of Billings are beginning to mildly wonder what has become of the petition for the opening of Thirty-fifth street across the Northern Pacific right-of-way," said a large property holder of Billings yesterday. "The petition was presented," he continued, "some time ago and was referred by the council to the proper committee. But nothing has been heard from it since. And in the meantime nothing apparently is being done.

"The time has long passed since the opening of that crossing became a necessity. As long as the Northern Pacific had its freight terminal here there was a good excuse for not having that street there, but when the freight terminals were removed to Laurel and the city gave the railroad a lot of other crossings in the vicinity of the depot we were given to understand that Thirty-fifth street would be opened. It is true that a lot of switching is going on there now; in fact, there appears to be nearly as much as there was before the crossing was built, but the crossing is badly needed and it ought to be provided, even if the railroad does have to hire an extra watchman or two."

The crossing referred to will be a continuation of Thirty-fifth street south and will connect with the southern extension of Division street. The petition was presented to the council about two months ago and referred to the committee on streets and alleys, which has not made a report. The advocates of the crossing, which include many business men, and especially those living in the western and southwestern part of Billings, point out that the construction of the new mill of the Russell-Miller company at the corner, or rather at what will be the corner if the crossing is put in, of Thirty-fifth and First avenue south, will virtually necessitate the opening of the street, as otherwise, farmers hauling grain from the north to the new mill will have to bring their loads through the main streets of the city, where traffic is congested. The same is true of the loads of sugar beets which now proceeded by a rather indirect route to the mill. It is said that both the sugar and milling companies will take steps toward urging the opening of the crossing.

A SON AND HEIR

News has reached this city of the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Dave M. Armour of Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Armour, it will be remembered, resided in Billings for four years during which time he was employed in the postoffice. The child was born on Dec. 16.

ALLEGED WIFE BEATER

Arrested by Officers Terrill and Wells on Sunday night, Charles Johnson is being held in the city jail pending the return of Judge Mann to this city, on a charge of beating his wife. The complaint was made by Mrs. Johnson who said her husband was making a rough house.

WALL STREET'S PACE SLACKENS

Spotty Advance at Outset Met With Selling Pressure That Chilled Enthusiasm.

SETBACK IN ATLANTIC

Follows Denial of Rumors Which Gave Group Prominence Last Week—Report That Steel Has Been Withdrawn From Bourse Affects Price.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The speculative hope that the approach of the holidays would be signaled by a brisk advance in prices of stocks was disappointed today. The spotty advance at the outset met with selling pressures of such an effective kind that these results was the setback in the Atlantic Coast Line group of securities which followed the publishing of denials, with an appearance of authority, of the rumors which marked these stocks last week.

The depressing influence was the calling of loans on a large scale by several of the large banks, which necessitated the replacing of accommodations. One reason given for this calling of loans was the placing of increased supplies of commercial paper and the desire of the banks to provide themselves with means to take it. The \$1,500,000 gold to be shipped to South America was withdrawn from the transaction during the day, but meanwhile that institution had contributed more than \$2,000,000 to the banks since Friday. The extent of the shifting of loans by some of the banks gave rise to a conjecture that many adjustments of accounts might be in progress looking to mergers in the banking world. Recent operations in connection with the purchase of the Equitable Life Assurance society and marked movements in some of the bank stocks has fostered an expectation of such developments. The repetition of the report from Paris that the effort to list United States Steel on the bourse had been definitely abandoned with the dissolution of the syndicate which took a block of the stock in connection with the project, weighed on its price to some extent. The progress of the demands for higher wages by railway trainmen and conductors in the east seemed to awaken languid interest.

American Sugar suffered from the publication of the current items of fraud. Bonds were steady. Total sales, par value, \$4,674,000. United States bonds 2s advanced 3/4 per cent on call.

Chicago Livestock. CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—Cattle—Receipts, estimated at 18,000. Market 10c higher. Beaves, \$4.00@8.40; Texas steers, \$4.00@4.90; western steers, \$4.00@5.25; stockers and feeders, \$3.00@5.50; calves, \$7.50@9.75. Hogs—Receipts, estimated at 48,000. Market 5c lower. Light, \$7.95@8.45; mixed, \$8.15@8.57 1/2; heavy, \$8.25@8.60; rough, \$8.25@8.35; good to choice heavy, \$8.35@8.60; pigs, \$7.00@7.30; bulk of sales, \$8.30@8.50. Sheep—Receipts, estimated at 22,000. Market 10c higher. Native, \$3.60@5.75; western, \$3.85@5.30; yearlings, \$5.50@7.60; lambs, native, \$5.25@8.70; western, \$6.00@8.70.

OMAHA LIVESTOCK. SOUTH OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 20.—Cattle—Receipts, 2,000. Market active, 10c higher. Native steers, \$4.00@8.00; western steers, \$3.50@6.25; cows and heifers, \$3.00@5.25; stockers and feeders, \$2.75@5.25; calves, \$3.50@7.50. Hogs—Receipts, 5,000. Market 5c lower. Heavy, \$8.27 1/2@8.32 1/2; mixed, \$8.25@8.30; light, \$8.10@8.30; bulk of sales, \$8.25@8.35. Sheep—Receipts, 6,700. Market 10c higher. Yearlings, \$5.80@7.00; western, \$5.00@5.60; \$4.25@5.25; lambs, \$6.75@8.00.

Miscellaneous Markets

New York Money. NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Money on call firm, 4@4 1/2 per cent; ruling rate, 4 1/2 per cent; closing bid, 4 1/2 per cent; offered at 5 per cent. Time loans easy and very dull; for 60 and 90 days, 4 1/2 per cent; for six months, 4 1/2 @ 4 3/4 per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 5 @ 5 1/2 per cent. Sterling exchange firm, with actual business in bankers' bills at \$4.84.50@4.84.60 for 60-day bills and at \$4.88.10 for demand. Commercial bills, \$4.84@4.84 1/4.

Local and Personal

L. D. Worrell of Kansas City spent yesterday with friends in this city.

H. A. Logan of Osborn was a business visitor in Billings yesterday.

Mrs. John M. Lee of Pompey's Pillar, was in the city yesterday visiting friends.

Henry Rosetta, a mine operator of Bear Creek, is attending to business matters in this city.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wallace of Sheridan, spent Sunday as the guests of Billings friends. Mr. Wallace is connected with the Burlington.

J. Henry Nibbe expects to leave Billings this week for his former home in St. Paul, where he will spend Christmas with relatives.

Willis Todd, a prominent coal mine operator of Colville, returned home yesterday after a brief business visit in Billings.

M. W. Potter, a former sheriff of Carbon county, has returned to his home in Reed Lodge after a short visit in this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Crismer have gone to Broken Bow, Neb., near which place they will spend the holidays.

Phil M. Gallagher, a well known engineer of the Big Horn basin, arrived in Billings yesterday and will spend the holidays with friends in this city.

C. Lewis Ahrens, of Montana Vista, Colo., and Otto H. Ahrens, of Attica, Ohio, were visitors in the city yesterday having come here to investigate local real estate conditions with a view of purchasing homes in the Yellowstone valley.

H. S. Hopka, superintendent of the Bear Creek coal mines, was in the city yesterday on his way home from Helena where he has been attending the hearing before the state railroad commissioners on the increase on the coal rate from Bear Creek to Bridger.

J. F. Bacon left Billings Saturday for Iowa where he will join his wife and the guest of relatives during the holiday season. Mr. and Mrs. Bacon will also visit in Rapid City, S. D., before returning to their home in Billings.

Col. J. H. Snow and F. F. Jackson were the guests Sunday of R. J. Ephland of this city, leaving Billings yesterday for the east. Colonel Snow will spend the holidays in Portland, Me., while Mr. Jackson will visit relatives in Kansas. Colonel Snow is the head of the engineering service on the Alaskan Central. He and Mr. Jackson have but recently come from Seward, Alaska, and will return north next spring.

DEVOTED TO CONGRESS.

The current issue of Campbell's Scientific Farmer, a monthly, published at Lincoln, Neb., by Professor Campbell, the "father of dry land farming," is devoted almost exclusively to the recent congress held in this city. The magazine speaks in glowing terms of the success of the Billings meeting, and contains several half tones of exhibits at the congress and scenes taken on dry land farms near the city.

WHEAT MARKET HAS A BREAK

Slump Attributed to the Weakness of Foreign Markets, Liverpool Leading in Drop.

OFF ONE TO TWO CENTS

Free Covering by Bears Brings a Substantial Advance—Cold Weather Causes Early Weakness in Corn, but Recovery Brought About.

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—Weakness of foreign markets—the Liverpool market being off 1 1/4 @ 1 1/2—caused a break here at the opening today, initial quotations being down from 1c to 2c. Free covering by the bears resulted in a substantial advance toward midday. Cold weather caused early weakness in corn, but toward the middle of the day prices rose sharply. The market closed almost at the top at net gains of 1 1/4 to 1 1/2c.

Oats were weak at the start, but rallied later. Prices closed 3/4c to 1c higher. Provisions closed unchanged to 17 1/2c lower.

Live Stock Quotations

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RAILROAD ARMY DEMANDS RAISE

Seventy-Five Thousand Knights of the Rail Notify Roads of Their Expectation.

FIVE TO FORTY PERCENT

Plans Contemplate a Standardization of Wages—Lines Involved Lie Between the Mississippi River and the Atlantic Seaboard.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 20.—Trainmen of the number of 75,000 employed on about 75 railroads east of the Mississippi river will today, through officials of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, with headquarters at Cleveland, Ohio, formally notify the various railroads affected that a demand for an increase in wages amounting to from 5 to 40 per cent will be made on January 3.

The agreement between the brotherhood and the railroads requires a notice to be served before such demands may be made.

According to W. J. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, who was in the city yesterday attending the initiation of a number of men into the local here, the chief demand to be made is that the wages of conductors and their crews be standardized which means increases for the various branches of the trainmen of from 5 to 40 per cent.

A strike is not yet contemplated, said Mr. Lee, but he reiterated that the trainmen will insist that their demands be granted.

Mr. Lee said the result of the recent referendum vote of the eastern division of the brotherhood was canvassed at a meeting of the executive committee in Chicago on Sunday and that the result showed that the men were almost unanimous for presenting the demands and holding out for them until granted.

In answer to a question concerning a statement credited to some railroad men that in order to raise the men's wages, freight rates would have to be advanced, Mr. Lee said to have remarked that the railroads have been looking for some excuse to advance freight rates, but irrespective of such an advance the men must have the pay they earned, even if the companies had to stop paying dividends.

There are 125,000 trainmen employed on the railroads affected.

PRESIDENT IS ELECTED

(Continued from Page One.)

of his hotel, where he greeted great crowds that had gathered around the building. He made a brief speech, urging harmony and co-operation. He pledged that he would uphold the rights of citizens, granting free elections and establishing a policy of equal opportunities for all.

Congress first accepted the resignation of Dr. Madriz as judge of the Central American court and Panycagua Prado was appointed to succeed him. The committee that has had the resignation of Zelaya in hand then recommended its acceptance, and the formulation of an address of thanks to Zelaya for his services to Nicaragua. The adoption of this report was followed by the election of the new president, the nomination of Dr. Madriz being greeted with much enthusiasm.

Attitude Not Changed. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Secretary of State Knox let it be known today that the attitude of this government toward Nicaragua would not be changed by the election of Madriz to the presidency as the successor to Zelaya, resigned.

Madriz will have to show that he is capable of directing a responsible government, which is prepared to make reparation for the wrongs which have been done to American citizens in the little Central American republic.

It was announced at the state department that the attitude of the United States toward Nicaragua would be now just as outlined in the note that Secretary Knox directed to Mr. Rodriguez, then Nicaragua charge d'affaires in this city, severing diplomatic relations with Nicaragua.

"This country still maintains that until a responsible government is set up so that definite negotiations can be had, diplomatic relations cannot be resumed.

"We are not trying to coerce Nicaragua," said a state department official tonight after a visit to the White House. "We want her to settle her own affairs and we are not dictating what shall be done in Nicaragua or who shall be named as president. All we want is a responsible government that we can do business with."

Poor Harry Must Remain in Asylum

Petition of Thaw for a Writ of Error Is Denied by Justice McKenna.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Justice McKenna of the supreme court of the United States today denied a petition of Harry K. Thaw for a writ of error to the court of appeals of New York in the case which Thaw made an effort to obtain release from the Matteawan asylum. The effect will be to leave Thaw in the asylum.

MARRIAGE LICENSE.