

BIG TASK MET BY BELL TELEPHONE

How System Expanded to Provide War Emergency Service Told in Annual Report.

New York, March 11.—How the Bell telephone system met the emergency of an enormous expansion after the entry of the United States into the war and provided adequate service to the various branches of the government without disturbance to commercial interests is shown in the annual report of Theodore N. Vail, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph company and its associate companies.

During the last year, the report shows, there has been a tremendous increase in the telephone service in Washington, to handle which it has been necessary to enlarge the switchboard five times and to bring in several hundred trained operators from other cities.

More than 300 miles of submarine cable and 1,200 miles of land lines connecting the coast guard systems were constructed and put in operation.

Fourteen battalions of picked officers and men trained in the company's telegraph and telephone work have joined the signal corps. The company is represented all over the world in the various government activities incident to the war.

Telephone traffic in the United States during 1917 broke all records, the report shows, the daily average of long distance connections reaching the high figure of 20,445,000. The total wire mileage of the system was 22,610,487, an increase of 3,000,000 miles.

Total operating revenues in round figures were \$294,900,000, an increase of \$50,300,000. Total operating expenses were \$204,400,000, an increase of \$28,500,000, leaving net operating revenues of \$90,500,000.

An abnormal demand for service due to the war necessitated a record expenditure for additions to plant of \$118,000,000, nearly 50 per cent greater than any previous similar annual outlay.

The net earnings of the American Telephone and Telegraph company, segregated from those of the Bell system, are shown to be \$48,840,000, which is \$4,197,000 more than for the previous year.

Mr. Vail states that the telephone business is growing and that the public is friendly and that the business condition, with assets of more than \$500,000,000 in excess of outstanding obligations.

Referring to government control, Mr. Vail says: "Whatever can be done by the government through direct operation can be done more certainly through control and regulation of private operation, thus combining the potency of the sovereign with the initiative and interest of the subject."

CHINA TO CO-OPERATE WITH JAPS IN PLAN American Engineers Robbed and Captured by Bandits in Chinese Province.

Peking, March 11.—(By the Associated Press).—China, in response to an inquiry from Tokyo, has signified her intention to co-operate with Japan in the protection of allied interests in the far east. The Chinese war bureau has been requested to arrange for the sending of two divisions to northern Manchuria. Japan will bear the expense pending the completion of a proposed American loan to China.

Peking, March 8 (Friday).—Two American engineers, Nyl and Purcell, have been robbed and captured by bandits near Yeh-Sien in the province of Honan. A Chinese assistant also was taken prisoner.

The party was on its way to inspect a survey of a proposed railway between Chowkai and Siang-Yangfu. They were carrying a large sum of money with which to pay survey parties. An escort of twenty soldiers resisted the bandits until their ammunition was exhausted, when the party surrendered. Two of the Chinese escaped and reported the outrage.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Don't fail to attend the big shoe sale of the entire stock of the Kelso-Neal Shoe Co. They are almost giving them away. Sale starts today at - a.m. 7:04 Market Street.

GERMAN AVIATOR LIVES THOUGH FALL SMASHED PLANE TO SPLINTERS



This photograph was snapped just after this German airplane had been brought down in a battle behind the French lines. The German pilot lived, though badly hurt, and is seen trying to extricate himself from the machine. French Red Cross workers, one of whom snapped this picture, took him to a hospital. The fall, as the picture shows, smashed the plane to splinters.

WET ADVOCATES RUSH TO ALBANY

Antis Alarmed—Looks Like New York Will Ratify Amendment.

Albany, N. Y., March 11.—Fear that the legislature will ratify the federal prohibition amendment caused the lobbyists of the "wet" interests to send out hurried calls for help Saturday. Their fear is well grounded. The "dry" claim that in the last few days the assembly has been won over to their cause and that they have twenty-three pledged votes in the senate.

The situation is a serious one for the "wets." The "dry" will have to get but three more votes to insure the ratification of the federal amendment in the upper house. Ordinarily there are fifty-one senators, but there are two vacancies due to resignations.

Even with this handicap, the "dry" are hopeful. Leaders of the "dry" declared that if the federal bone-dry amendment is not ratified by this legislature they will be disappointed. Earlier in the session—in fact, as late as three days ago—leaders of the anti-alcohol league stated that it looked as if the "wets" had the upper hand in the legislature, but all this is changed now, in their opinion.

In the assembly, which was "wet" by a safe majority a month ago, at which time Thaddeus C. Sweet, speaker, said that there were but sixty or so votes pledged for prohibition, there is now a solid line-up of seventy-eight assemblymen on the "dry" side. This is a majority of three. This is without the ten socialist votes, and, while the socialists have announced they will not vote for prohibition, they are now expected to vote for it.

Specialists' Stand in Doubt. In the assembly, which was "wet" by a safe majority a month ago, at which time Thaddeus C. Sweet, speaker, said that there were but sixty or so votes pledged for prohibition, there is now a solid line-up of seventy-eight assemblymen on the "dry" side.

PREMIER KEEPS POST King Alfonso's Arguments Prove Effective.

Madrid, March 10.—Premier Marquis de Alcala Zamora today presented the resignation of the cabinet and declined to form a new ministry, tonight yielded to the arguments of King Alfonso and agreed to continue in office. No changes will be made in the cabinet.

RELATIVES WILL BE OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED Washington, March 11.—The war department gives no indication of yielding in its determination to withhold the home addresses of soldiers killed or wounded, or who die of other causes in France.

PARISIAN FASHION-MAKERS CONSERVE WOOL Tighter Effects Evolved in Suits for American Women—Combination Idea Popular.

Paris, March 11.—The limited number of American buyers who are now in Paris seeking models for the spring and summer season report that the leading creators of Paris styles have made their models conform strictly to the requirements of the Washington economy board so that patriotic American women can serve their country regarding wool conservation and at the same time conform to the best Parisian styles.

COMMISSIONER CLAXTON GIVES REASONS FOR STUDY OF GERMAN

Washington.—The following letter was written by Mr. P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, in response to an inquiry as to the advisability of the people, continuation of the teaching of German in high schools and colleges as published in the New Republic:

"I do not think our present relations with the German empire should affect in any way the policy of the schools in the United States in regard to teaching the German language. The United States is now at war with the imperial government of Germany and not with the German language or literature. The president has tried to make it plain to all the people that we are not at war with the people of Germany as a people, and that we have in our hearts no hatred or bitterness toward them.

"The value of the scientific and technical writings of the German people will be no doubt continue to increase. To rob ourselves of the ability to profit by them would be very foolish. The kinship between the English and the German languages is the same as it was before the war and the value of a knowledge of the history and philology of the German language for an understanding of English remains the same.

"Last of all, we cannot as a people, afford to put ourselves in the attitude of regarding as evil everything about any people with whom we may happen to be at war. We cannot afford to assume this attitude toward the German people simply because they happen now to be under the control of an autocratic militaristic government with purposes and aims that have brought us into conflict with it.

TORNADO SWEEPS OHIO; NUMBER KILLED Scores of Homes and Hundreds of Barns Razed—Larger Cities Escape Damage.

Lima, O., March 11.—Six persons are known to be dead, several others are reported killed, scores are injured, scores of homes were completely or partly demolished and hundreds of barns and outbuildings were razed by the tornado which traveled across northwestern Ohio early Saturday night. Estimates of property damage range from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. No serious damage was done in any of the larger cities, most of the destruction having been reported from country districts.

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Not more than four and one-half yards of woolen material is to be used in any garment. Tailor made suits show narrower jackets, with what coats of other materials, and narrow, although a trifle longer skirts. One-piece frocks of woolen materials are combined with satin, silk, crepe de chine or foulards giving new and wonderfully contrasted effects. Capes are shown extensively, with a single length of two-widths cloth to effect

IGNOMINIOUS DEATH OF NOTED RACEHORSE

(Special to The News.) Nashville, March 11.—Ivan the Terrible, a thoroughbred stallion, valued at \$10,000 and owned by W. W. Darden, suffered a broken leg Sunday and had to be destroyed. The stallion was in the stud at the state fair grounds. His caretaker was exercising him on the Franklin road when he was run into by a motorcycle. Ivan the Terrible was highly bred, a fine racehorse in his day, and the sire of several good winners.

ADMINISTRATOR HOOVER HOLDS LONG CONFERENCE Zone Chairmen Meet and Discuss Supplies for Allies, Supposedly. Results Not Disclosed.

New York, March 11.—Herbert C. Hoover, national food administrator, held a long conference here yesterday with the zone chairmen of the milling division of the food administration. The result of the conference was not disclosed. Prices of flour and the amount of wheat which can be spared to the allies are supposed to have been considered.

Camp Life a Great Success! Fort Oglethorpe's new magazine, Camp Life, which made its appearance just a few days ago, was so favorably received by the military element at Chickamauga Park, as well as by civilians in the city, that all copies were taken up within three days.

30,000 LETTERS LOST ON SUNKEN ANDANIA Were From American Troops in Various Parts of France—Parcel Post Matter Also Lost.

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DAYTON COAL CO. IS REORGANIZED

New Owners Apply for Five Million-Dollar Charter—Operate Mines by Fall.

Nashville, March 11.—The Dayton Coal, Iron and Railway company, of Wilmington, Del., today filed its reorganization certificate with the secretary of state. Its capital is given as \$5,000,000. It is reported that its headquarters will be at Chattanooga.

The new company is headed by M. Mathus of Rome, Ga., who purchased the assets of the Dayton company's stock at the bankruptcy sale here last August. It will be reorganized by the courts in this state, and a prolonged fight made by numerous creditors to secure their claims. Mr. Mathus paid approximately \$400,000. The company owns lands in Rhea, Meigs and Blount counties in this state, and in Walker county, Georgia. The work of reorganizing and re-equipping the mines is now in progress, and it is estimated that they will be once more in operation by next fall.

AT THE RIALTO

The headline act on the bill the first half of the week is Suzanne Rocamora and four attractive girls who sing. "At the Ladies' Club," by George Botsford. Even the most enthusiastic of his admirers would hardly compare Jean Havers with the late W. H. Gilbert. Their works, however, are similar in one respect. Both satirize the events of the period in this state, and in Walker county, Georgia. The work of reorganizing and re-equipping the mines is now in progress, and it is estimated that they will be once more in operation by next fall.

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EL VIGOR TONIC

For the Blood, Liver, Kidneys and Bowels. Relieves Constipation. Manufactured and sold 818 Pine St. El Vigor Sales Co.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE

In obedience to a decree of the county court at Chattanooga, made in the case of Miss Catherine H. de Sabla et al., ex parte, I will, on Saturday, March 23, 1918, at noon, at the west door of the courthouse in Chattanooga, sell to the highest and best bidder the real estate (a town lot) in said decree described, being lot No. 1 in block No. 1 of the subdivision of the east half of lot No. 10 of the de Sabla home place, at East Lake, in the Fifth district of Hamilton county, Tennessee.

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ALCAZAR

"Where Quality Meets" MONDAY-TUESDAY William S. Hart "Blue Blazes Rawdon"

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