

TELEPHONE RATES IN U.S. HIGHER THAN OTHER NATIONS

Postalization of Telephone and Telegraph is Aim of Congressman Lewis—Successful Abroad. RANK FIRST IN USE OF LETTER But Thirteenth in Use of Wire—Rates in Foreign Countries Compared With Those in America.

By BURTON K. STANDISH. Washington, April 16.—Whenever any member of the House of Representatives wishes to know about postal affairs, wishes to bolster up an impending speech with few facts, and hasn't time to get in touch with the Post Office Department, he has always the alternative of asking Representative David J. Lewis, of Maryland. Lewis is a simple and sure remedy for ignorance concerning the post office. If taken in time and in sufficient doses, he is as full of information regarding the mails as Rep. James R. Mann is regarding parliamentary proceedings or Senator Lafollette regarding the railroads.

Means Reduction. "Mr. Burlison's precessors for 50 years have given like counsel. The principal countries of the world, the United States alone excepted, have already postalized these agencies. Why? Briefly, because the postoffice alone has the motive and the facilities to make rates low enough to render service to all the people. Before the parcels post we had the highest parcel rates. They are now among the lowest in the world. We still have the highest telegraph rates. They run from 25 cents to \$1. Where the post conducts the telegraph they run from 10 cents to 24 cents for the longest distances.

"The result of our high rates is that we use the telegraph little. New Zealand with a 12 cent rate shows 9 telegraph per capita, the United States only 1. But with the lowest letter rates we show the highest use, 101 letters per capita, as against 93 for New Zealand. While our telegraph rates run from two to over four times as high as countries like Austria, with distances as long and wages as high as our own, our toll or long distance rates are even more immoderate. They run from three to seven times as high as the postal telephone rates of other countries.

"The average rate for 100 miles in nine countries of Europe is 20 cents, as against 60 cents here; for 300 miles, 37 cents, as against \$1.80 here; for 400 miles, 39 cents, as against \$2.40; for 500 miles, 46 cents, as against \$3; for 700 miles, 53 cents, as against \$4.20.

Pay More Than Europe. "That is to say, for 100 miles we pay three times as much as they in Europe and for 700 miles, we pay eight times as much.

"It costs the American as much to ship his long-distance conversation over the wires as it costs him to ship his freight over the railroads. The railroads get on an average 7 mills a mile for moving a ton of freight. The charge for carrying three-minute conversation a mile is 6 mills. Conversations weigh about a ton on the long distance wires.

"The effect of the rates is to reduce the traffic to a point as abnormally low as the rates are abnormally high. Combining telegrams and telephone messages we find that other countries use the wires from two to four times as much as we do. Denmark shows 17 such messages per capita—we show only three. We rank first in the use of the letter, but thirteenth in the use of the wire. Moreover, our companies maintain but one telegraph office to every seven post-offices. The postal institutions maintain an average of two telegraph offices to every three postoffices. This is the penalty our country pays for permitting a private monopoly to conduct this part of the postal service—the highest rates and the poorest service among the nations.

"Second only to the letter in importance is the local telephone call. Perhaps it would be first if its cost permitted its use by all the people. In countries having postal telephones the rate averages about a cent a call, or half the letter rates, while in our

BOATING SEASON IS ON. Warm Weather of Past Few Days Causes Ice to Break Up.

The boating season has begun. A first to be placed in the water this year, was pressed into use on Lake Bemidji this morning. Warm weather of the past few days has caused the ice to break up considerably and it will be but a short time before it will leave the lake entirely. The ice in Lake Irving, which usually disappears about two weeks before that in Lake Bemidji, has just begun to break up. Captain MacLachlan is planning to begin navigation May first and he is placing the "City of Bemidji" in readiness to begin operations on that day.

MINNESOTA BOYS LEAD Summary of Results in Thirty-three States Show Gopher State Leads Ahead in Corn Growing League.

MANY PASS 120-BUSHEL MARK If Minnesota's boy corn growers were scored for results as batting averages in baseball are compiled—by the number of safe hits per season, not the number of home runs—then the Minnesota boys would come out at the top of the government averages in the corn-growing league. The United States Department of Agriculture has issued a statement of the club work of boys and girls in 33 states done in co-operation with state educational institutions. It shows that the highest corn yield of Minnesota last year, 131 bushels on an acre, was surpassed by boys in Oregon, Iowa, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Washington.

But in number of boys who produced more than 120 bushels to the acre, Minnesota leads with 15, while Michigan is a poor second with five. In number who produced more than 100 bushels per acre, Minnesota again leads with sixty as against Michigan's second with eleven. In number who turned out more than 80 bushels per acre, Minnesota leads with 310, while Iowa is second with 42. In number who grew more than 60 bushels per acre, Minnesota, tops the list easily with 710 while Iowa is second with 166.

One Minnesota boy is said to have made \$118 net profit for the season with nine pigs and an acre of corn.

DUTCH GOVERNMENT SAYS SUBMARINE SUNK KATWYK

The Hague, April 16.—The Dutch government this afternoon officially announced that it was convinced a submarine had sunk the steamer Katwyk, but the nationality of the submarine was not mentioned. It is further alleged that the enemy refused to tow the boat into port.

Newspapers, however, say that it was undoubtedly a German submarine that did the work. One newspaper demanded that a sharp note be sent forcing an apology for the incident and stated that a repetition of such an attack would mean war with Holland. Other newspapers stated that the situation is serious.

NO. 92 IN LEAD.

The lead in the Huffman & O'Leary free piano contest is now held by No. 92, with a vote of 8,579,815. The standings of the other contestants follow: 1, 339,864; 2, 104,414; 3, 122,896; 8, 307,000; 9, 172,000; 10, 192,000; 13, 207,000; 19, 317,000; 22, 200,414; 23, 239,000; 25, 292,749; 28, 192,000; 33, 252,749; 34, 279,896; 36, 277,325; 40, 327,698; 48, 227,645; 67, 164,345; 74, 194,435; 78, 221,885; 86, 449,461; 90, 313,414; 91, 102,000; 92, 8,579,815; 97, 317,530; 112, 172,685; 115, 169,965; 117, 243,000; 123, 102,415; 125, 240,675; 130, 8,267,480; 131, 220,000; 133, 312,000; 134, 272,000; 136, 282,000; 138, 269,414; 155, 127,845; 159, 186,745.

L. J. Gleason, of the Minneapolis office of the Crookston Lumber company, is in Bemidji for several days.

MANY OBSTACLES IN TRENCH FIGHTING

Field Marshal French's Report Shows Why Blunders Were Made by British at Neuve Chapelle.

ENGLISH DEMOCRACY WINNING

Incompetency Among French Officers Explains Ease With Which Germans Succeeded in Belgium.

By J. W. T. MASON. New York, April 16.—Field Marshal French's report on the blunders committed by the British at Neuve Chapelle clears up much that was obscure in that engagement, and emphasizes anew the almost insuperable obstacles that prevent a major victory from trench warfare. Since the entrenched fighting began in France and Belgium, it is certain that many incidents not unlike the mismanagement at Neuve Chapelle have occurred to all of the belligerents. Otherwise, the annals of the last six months would show more victories won by the Germans or the Allies. But until the British commander-in-chief made public his frank avowal of the blunders of his army, all details of failures have been suppressed. General Joffre has permitted it to be announced that incompetency of the part of the French commanders was responsible for the success of the German drive through Belgium and northern France. The Germans, too, have publicly criticized the Austrians in general terms. But the British report of the Neuve Chapelle battle is the first one to give particulars of an unpalatable character.

Is Winning Fight.

The British democracy, apparently, is winning its fight against the Kitchener censorship. Four primary reasons are stated by Field Marshal French to be responsible for the meagerness of the gains at Neuve Chapelle. First, the failure of the Twenty-third brigade to properly cut its way through barbed wire entanglements; second, the delay of the Fourth corps in getting its reserves into action; third, the difficulty of reorganizing the various units after they had charged through the enemy's trenches; fourth, the improper control of the artillery, which swept the field over which the British themselves were advancing.

Would Miss Lesson.

It would be easy to set down these mistakes to British blundering and to remark on the similarity of the present report and those issued during the Boer war. But criticism of this nature would miss the prime lesson of Sir John French's analysis. Every mistake committed at Neuve Chapelle is a representative one. If, were not for these and similar difficulties, modern generalship would not be so important before the enemy's entrenchments.

There is no reference in Sir John French's report to a belief that such errors will not happen again. In fact, five weeks have passed since the Neuve Chapelle battle, and as yet no effort has been made to redeem the blunders committed last month. He says such losses as those at Neuve Chapelle must be expected in the future unless he has a "most efficient and powerful artillery force and an almost unlimited supply of ammunition."

Cannot Pay Price.

There is no reason at present to believe any of the belligerents has "an almost unlimited supply of ammunition." Neither side can afford to pay the price of Neuve Chapelle victories without unlimited ammunition, which cost the British 13,000 lives for a gain of 1,600 yards along a front of about two miles. The lesson of Sir John French's report, therefore, is that no present hope exists of breaking the deadlock along the western battlefield.

Cass Lake Chief Here.

George Deidrick, chief of police of Cass Lake, spent today in Bemidji on official business.

An apple eaten before breakfast serves as a natural stimulant for the digestive organs.

TELLS OF OWN CONVERSION

Evangelist Reynolds Was Traveling When He Began Present Work.

(By Rev. C. W. Gilman) Much interest is being taken in the evangelistic meetings which are being held in the Methodist church by Rev. Frank E. Reynolds and each meeting is well attended. Yesterday afternoon his subject was: "Crucified With Christ." He said the old nature must be crucified, which means to be put to death, so the Christ life can live. Then if the old nature is dead there is no need of constant repression, for the old man has been crucified, and the life we then live is one of freedom. Last night Rev. Reynolds talked on the theme, "God's Pleading." His text was "God's Spirit will not always strive with man." He said that a man could resist the pleading of the spirit until that pleading would cease, and leave forever. A man in this condition has no hope. Rev. Reynolds told the story of his own conversion. He was on the road as a traveling man. The spirit had been striving with him for two weeks, even while he was trying

(Continued on last page.)

UNIQUE HOUSES SHOWN

Work of School Students on Display at Schneiders' Attracts Much Attention—Charts Provided.

TO ANNOUNCE CONTEST WINNERS

Thirty bird houses, all attractive, of unique design and showing new plans in architecture of the kind, are on display at Schneider Brothers, being the work of pupils of the Bemidji schools. The houses were constructed in connection with the contest which has been in progress during the past month and in which \$15 in prizes are to be distributed.

Bird houses of all kinds are shown, some being built for one certain bird and others for another. There is one house three stories high in which there are thirty rooms. A large number of the houses are for sale, the prices ranging as high as \$1.50. Accompanying the houses are charts which tell of bird life. One tells of the colors of different birds; another tells of perching birds and another tells of the kinds of food preferred by various birds.

A list of useful birds includes the following names: Robin, myrtle warbler, chickadee, screech owl, nuttall, yellow-billed cuckoo, red-eyed vireo, downy woodpecker, brown creeper, marsh hawk, king bird, sparrow hawk, meadow lark, Maryland lark, cedar wax wing, blue bird, warblers, house wren, barn swallow, sparrow, mourning dove, bobwhite and killdeer.

Among the doubtful birds named are the following: Cat bird, crow, blackbird and blue jay. The injurious birds are the hawk, sapsucker and English swallow. The judges in the contest are Mrs. C. E. Battles, Dr. E. H. Marcum and Dr. G. M. Palmer. The selection of prize-winning houses will be made this afternoon.

\$400,000 DAMAGE DONE BY MINNEAPOLIS FIRE

(United Press) Minneapolis, April 16.—Wheat to the amount of 250,000 bushels and damage done to the extent of \$400,000 resulted from the Huhn elevator fire this morning. A concrete tank protected 100,000 bushels from the flames and switch engines hauled 50,000 bushels more to safety.

NYMORE MAN ARRESTED

Frank Johnson, giving Nymore as his place of residence, was arrested this morning by Special Officer Brandt on a charge of introducing liquor into Indian territory. Johnson was taken into custody on the arrival of the Soo Line passenger this morning. A grip containing quantities of beer, whisky and alcohol, the property of Johnson, who is now in the county jail, was confiscated.

OMNIBUS BILL MADE SPECIAL ORDER TODAY

Measure Carrying \$4,772,000 for State Institutions May Be Reached at Three O'clock This Afternoon.

CHAIRMAN MAKES NO COMMENT

Not Known for Certain Whether Appropriation for Bemidji Normal School Building is Included.

(United Press)

St. Paul, April 16.—The bill carrying \$4,772,000 appropriations for state institutions, those governed by the board of control, was made a special order for 3 o'clock this afternoon. This amount is \$800,000 below that appropriated by the legislature of two years ago.

An effort was made to ascertain whether an appropriation of \$50,000 for the building of a normal school at Bemidji was included, but the committee chairman refused to make any comment.

Boxing Bill Special Order.

The bill permitting boxing in the cities of Duluth, St. Paul and Minneapolis, which recently passed the house, was made a special order for Monday morning in the senate.

Governor Hammond today signed the roadhouse bill, prohibiting the operation of saloons outside of organized towns and cities.

The bill providing for the teaching of deaf children in the public schools was advanced to the calendar and the judiciary committee this afternoon recommended for passage the new amendments to the abatement law, substituting them for the Von Hoven proposed amendment.

NEW BOATS ADDED.

Viking Company to Improve Service This Summer—Provide for Fishers.

Several new boats have been built during the winter by the Viking Boat company and will be added to those which were in use last year. Many improvements and repairs have been made at the dock and boat house of the company and better service than ever is the aim of the proprietors. Material for fishermen will be provided as during former years. One gasoline launch will be operated in connection with the boat house.

COAST GUNS OF GERMANS FORCE BRITISH TO RETIRE

(United Press) Berlin, April 16.—The following bulletin was issued by the German war department this afternoon: British destroyers standing in near the coast assisted allied land forces in a heavy artillery attack upon the German positions between Nieuport and Ypres. The Germans trained their heavy coast guns upon the warships and forced them to retire.

HANGMAN'S CARNIVAL.

Sacramento, Cal., April 16.—What was the inauguration of a month of hangings in California history was scheduled today with the execution on the scaffold of Charles Oxnam and Glenn Witt, murderers. Oxnam was to be hung today at San Quentin penitentiary and Witt at Folsom prison. Two more hangings are scheduled next Friday and another the following Friday.

BUNNY REPORTED DEAD.

(United Press) New York, April 16.—It was reported in the newspapers here this morning that John Bunny, the noted actor was dead, but he is yet alive, although in a very serious condition. John Bunny is one of the stars of the "movies" and is considered as one of the funniest in the business.

SENATOR ALDRICH DEAD.

(United Press) New York, April 16.—Nelson Aldrich, former United States senator, dropped dead here this morning.

EXAMINATION TO BE HELD.

Bemidji Postoffice to Be Provided With Clerk and Carrier.

J. M. Shoemaker, secretary of the civil service board, has announced that an examination will be held in Bemidji on Saturday, April 24, for applicants for clerk and carrier in the Bemidji postoffice. S. A. Cutter of this city will have charge of the examination. Applications for the examination must be made in regular forms provided for that purpose.

COURT TERM NEARS END

But One More Jury Case Remains for Trial, Being That of State of Minnesota Against England.

JURY EXCUSED UNTIL TUESDAY

But one more jury case remains for trial at the adjourned term of district court which has been in progress here since Tuesday, being that of the state of Minnesota versus Call England. There are several court cases which will be tried between now and the first of May.

England was indicted by the grand jury in February on a charge of grand larceny in the second degree. The case will be called for trial next Tuesday morning, the members of the jury having been excused by Judge Wright until that time. The defendant will be represented by Attorney Henry Funkley, while Graham M. Torrance, county attorney, will appear for the state.

The case of Kate Jones against Dr. E. H. Marcum has been dismissed on the request of plaintiff. The jury in the suit was secured yesterday afternoon and several witnesses had been examined before the case was dismissed.

Several other cases were to have been tried but because of the absence from the city of counsel they will go over to the fall term.

MORE ENGLISH TOWNS VISITED BY ZEPPELINS

(United Press) London, April 16.—London is expecting another Zeppelin raid within a few hours. A special meeting of the admiralty was held this morning, presumably to effect a plan of defense against the air raiders. A number of Zeppelins, thought to be three in number, made an attack on Essex and Suffolk this morning. Damage was done to the amount of \$50,000 and a woman and girl were injured. The raiders crossed the Thames river eleven miles from London and twelve towns and cities within 70 miles of the city were visited. The admiralty is convinced that Germany is attempting to get a route to London for the Zeppelins.

London, April 16.—Count Zeppelin has arrived at Cuxhaven, the German Zeppelin base, for the purpose of personally directing the expected aerial raid upon London. Several Zeppelins have been transported to the bases at Emden and Cuxhaven and the enemy's ships are displaying the greatest activity.

The report that three Zeppelins participated in the recent attack upon English towns is apparently confirmed.

While a conference was progressing here to devise ways and means of meeting the anticipated Zeppelin attack, a dispatch was received from Chatham announcing that German aeroplanes had attacked Faversham and Sittingbourne, forty miles southeast of London, early this afternoon. The first aviator appeared at Margate on the English coast, flying westward, passing near the famous Canterbury cathedral, but attempting no damage. The raiders then bombed Faversham and Sittingbourne and were pursued by British airmen.

Two Purchase Buicks.

Two Buick 35-horsepower five-passenger Buick automobiles, purchased through the Bemidji Automobile company, have been received by Dr. J. T. Tuomy of this city and Dr. Delbert F. Dumas of Cass Lake. The machines were delivered yesterday.

NECESSITY OF BOND ISSUE EXPLAINED

Questions Asked by Bemidji Citizens Concerning Proposition, Answered—Election Tuesday.

\$80,000 IS AMOUNT INVOLVED

Money to Be Secured by State Loan—Means Placing of City on Cash Working Basis.

As the day of the special election, which is to be held for the purpose of voting on a bond issue of \$60,000, approaches, taxpayers of Bemidji who are not familiar with the proposition are asking many questions, some of which the Daily Pioneer herewith attempts to answer in as complete a manner as possible.

The special election will be held next Tuesday, the polls being open from 6 o'clock in the morning till 9 o'clock in the evening. This date was named by the city council at an adjourned meeting held Friday evening, March 19, when the report of a committee comprised of a member of the Commercial club, a member of the Merchants' association, a member of the city council and a representative citizen from each of the wards of the city, recommended that a bond issue be passed, following an investigation.

Questions are Answered. Following is presented a series of questions heard repeatedly and answers which have a direct bearing on the passing of the bond issue of \$60,000:

What makes a bond issue necessary at this time?

Anticipated revenues last year from sources other than tax levy, fell short \$10,000 on account of the Federal closing. Anticipated revenues from this source for this year approximating \$22,000 are also lost on account of this closing. This combined with outstanding warrants makes an issue of this kind advisable.

What is the bond issue for?

For the purpose of picking up outstanding warrants. Does this tend to increase our indebtedness? No. For instance, the city has from \$50,000 to \$60,000 outstanding warrants for indebtedness that exists, and these warrants draw 6 per cent interest. The arrangements for a state loan merely would provide the cash to retire these warrants, and such a loan is made at 4 per cent. You see it does not increase the indebtedness, but reduces the interest on such an amount from 6 to 4 per cent.

The City's Indebtedness.

What is the actual indebtedness of the city?

At the beginning of the fiscal year it was approximately \$98,000. Now this may seem high, but when you consider that of this amount \$60,000 is for bonds for the water system, and which is never considered as an actual city indebtedness, it being strictly a public utility, or a commercial enterprise and self-sustaining, it is not so very high. This then leaves approximately an indebtedness of \$40,000 for what is called the city proper.

What offset has the city for this indebtedness?

It has every bit of the city property that can be given a physical valuation, such as real estate, buildings, equipment of all kinds, that is owned by the city, and in addition to this it represents every bit of permanent improvements made, such as bridges, grading streets and roads, street and alley crossings, walks, paving, sewers, septic tank and so on.

Will the indebtedness be greater at the end of this fiscal year?

It will be less, because there is a bond issue of \$25,000 due and payable October first this year, which will be paid and retired, money being available in the sinking fund for that purpose.

What rate of interest do these outstanding warrants draw?

Six per cent.

What rate of interest will the bonds draw?

Four per cent.

Are these warrants taken at par?

No. They are usually discounted at 5 to 10 per cent—at the present time 10 per cent is the rate of discount.

Who Pays Discount?

Who stands this discount? The individual to whom the warrants are issued.

Are all the expenses of the city paid by warrants on over-drawn funds?

Yes, and have been for the past two or three years.

Who holds these warrants? Banks, business houses, contractors and private citizens.

What share of the \$60,000 is held by the banks?

About \$11,000; the balance is held by the others.

Will the issuance of the bonds be apt to make the taxes more or less?

SCOOP THE CUB REPORTER



Scoop's Music Lacks The Charm That Soothes Savage Beasts By "HOP"



Who Pays Discount?

