

sistance from them.

Pa keeps asking me when it is to be. I think pa wants my room. It's the best room in the house. But I haven't set the date for the wedding yet.

My fiance doesn't seem to understand the delay. He says I ought to fix a definite day and then get busy on my trousseau. I find that's one thing I object to. Working on a trousseau helps pass the time away. What I want is something to make the wedding day look so far off that I'd really be anxious to overtake it.

I can't get excited at all over my wedding.

Probably if I go away a while and don't see Cuthbert, I will feel more like wanting him. Yes, that's what I need—a parole!

So, without saying anything to Cuthbert, I packed up and went on a visit to my Aunt Salsify in Connecticut. As soon as the train started a great weight lifted itself off my chest. I hadn't a care in the world. I read a magazine and ate caramels with all my former girlish artlessness.

(Continued.)

OUR TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CHARGES THE SCANDAL OF PUBLIC SERVICE RATES

BY DAVID J. LEWIS,

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Our telephone and telegraph charges are the scandal of public-service rates the world over. And yet our postal rates rank among the lowest of all. Among twenty-one principal countries, only Japan, with a letter rate of 1½ cents, is lower. But our telegraph rates are the highest; we rank 15th among 15 countries. The result of high rates is that we can use the telegram but little. We rank but 9th as users among 17 countries, with about one (1.10) telegram per capita, as against over eight in New Zealand, where wage levels and social conditions are like our own.

Our toll or long-distance telephone rates are even more aggravated. They are based on a scale of 6 mills a mile, i. e., the rate for 500 miles \$3 for three minutes, the nearly universal conversational unit.

The American toll rates run from four to eight times those of Europe. The result is that Germany shows over five "long-distance" talks per capita per annum, and we but three. In number of such talks per 'phone in use we are near to the bottom of the list, with 13 countries ahead of us.

There are only three countries in

which the average charge per local telephone call exceeds the rate of letter postage. The Bell rate makes us one of these three. In the other thirteen countries the local call averages but half the postage rate. Here it runs above the letter rate, and in the large cities runs from once to twice the street car fare!

The unlimited yearly rates of London are \$82.79; Paris, \$77.20; Berlin, \$43.20, and Stockholm, \$24.44, altogether \$227.63. The rate for a limited service of 5,700 calls a year, about 15 per day, in New York is \$228. Washington pays \$168—more than Amsterdam, at \$26; Rotterdam, \$36; Auckland, \$34.09; Tokio, \$34, and The Hague, \$26, combined, for unlimited services. For smaller towns the annual rates run from as low as \$8 per annum in Norway to \$14 in the Netherlands, while in Switzerland, after the second year, the measured rate is \$7.72 plus a cent a call. But in all these countries the telephone has been postalized and the user gets the benefit of the public service motive.

It is only fair to ask, do these rates pay?

The only general answer which can be given to this question is that in no country where the telephone and telegraph have been postalized do the