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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 4, 1902.

TWO SIDES OF A QUESTION.

The City Council is asked to grant a franchise to a company not yet incorporated, which proposes to establish a home telephone system and guarantee good and efficient service, at half the rates now charged by the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company. This is a matter that requires very careful consideration by the city authorities. There are many things to be well weighed. The chief aim to be kept in view is the public benefit. It is pleasant to say yet when people ask for a favor, it requires courage as well as good judgment, often, to say no. If there were no other interests at stake than those of the proposed association, the risk being theirs it might seem churlish to refuse the application. But before a decision is reached it will be necessary to see how it will affect other interests.

First, how will it affect the municipality, and what benefits will result to the citizens? Next, what bearing will it have upon the present telephone system, the company that owns it and the home capitalists who are peculiarly interested in it? So far as we have investigated the matter, it appears to us that the proposed company offers similar accommodations to the city to those now derived from the established arrangement. If there would be any advantage from having a double set of lines and instruments which the city could use for its public business over that of the present service, the change should be weighed in the scale of examination. It is claimed on one side that the city would have that much more accommodation, and is pointed out on the other side that this would only create confusion without increased benefit.

It is further urged that it must be for the public welfare to secure a telephone service at half the cost of the established rates. Against this it is argued, that unless the new system should become as universal as the old one, it would not answer the purpose of business and professional men and firms, and if it succeeded so far as to force the Bell company to cut its rates in two, still, unless the latter was pushed out of the business, those patrons would be compelled still to use the Bell as well as the Home service, and thus no pecuniary advantage would be gained but confusion would probably result.

If the general public could be induced to adopt the new system and reject the old, the matter would be very much simplified but that is hardly to be expected. If the project should be received with such favor as to warrant its establishment, its growth must necessarily be gradual, and while it is extending, the inconveniences and difficulties now in the way would continue, until connections were established both in the city and elsewhere, throughout the State and in the surrounding regions, such as now exist under the operations of the Bell company.

It is claimed that the Independent telephone movement is in operation in various parts of the United States, and with pronounced success. That is quite possible and yet it might not be advisable here. These companies are not generally associated. Each stands on its own basis. The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company is associated with the American Bell Telephone Company and its connections are very extensive, spreading out in this region even to remote places, which we reach by the long distance instrument. The Home company intends to spread out in the same way as fast as possible, but it must be admitted that for some time at least this will be impossible, and therefore those who need the distant service will have to continue it, even if they patronize the new company for home use. Here then would come in the double service again.

For ordinary home to home use, the Bell company furnishes a very serviceable connection for \$1 a month, which gives twenty messages from each phone to any other in the city for that sum, and unrestricted reception of messages without further cost. The Home company proposes to do this for half the amount, which is a very liberal offer, but until the system becomes as well established as the old, the same objections could be offered as those already mentioned. There would be no advantage in having two phones in a house, one for each system, even if the Bell company met the half rate, because of the confusion that would certainly arise.

One advantage offered by the promoters of the Home company is that everybody who chooses can take stock in it, placed as low as \$1 per share. This would put the capital in the hands of Utah people, and thus the profits, if any, would benefit this community. Another thing: it is quite likely that with the cheap rates offered, people in towns and villages where there is now either no telephone service at all or simply one toll room for the whole set-

tlement, would have individual service in their homes, and thus the new system would be rapidly extended in many directions and become popular in many places. This would be beneficial to everybody connected with that system here and elsewhere, but would not obviate the difficulties suggested as to the connections established only in the Bell sphere of operations.

If a franchise can be obtained by the proposed company and it should materialize into a home corporation, according to the plans projected, it would probably have the effect of forcing a reduction of rates upon the Bell system. But it is hardly probable that it would drive the latter out of the field, seeing that it is a well-established system, and supported to some extent by local capitalists, and has behind it a powerful corporation of wealth and influence throughout the land. The two systems, side by side in our business establishments, might be endured and could probably be operated by a different code of signals; but, after all, it certainly looks as though they would be confusing and without the benefits held out as coming from cheap service.

It has been suggested that the present scheme has been devised simply for the purpose of obtaining a franchise and a show of patronage by subscriptions for cheap telephone service, with a view of selling out to the Bell company. We do not regard this as sound. The difficulties connected with it already are men of business and social standing in the State, and they would not knowingly lend their names and influence to any measure of that character. It is probably started in good faith, and on its face shows many things that appear plausible and worthy of consideration. It is certainly alluring, to say the least, to those who are paying what are considered high rates for business and professional telephone service, and anything that offers to cut them in two, either by the establishment of a cheaper system or by compelling the existing company to cut its prices, is naturally attractive.

We can only suggest to the City Council that the claims of the promoters of the Home Telephone company receive fair and unbiased consideration. We have no personal interest in either organization. We have in view nothing but the welfare of the public. We have nothing against the Bell company or system, for we think it has greatly improved, and its extensions are valuable to us as gatherers of news and disseminators of intelligence. We do not wish to throw a straw in the way of the new company in the establishment of any legitimate enterprise, whether by way of competition or otherwise. The City Council should not take a course purposely to injure existing industries, or the establishment of new undertakings which bear a genuine stamp and are evidently promotive of the public welfare. Personal favors or animosities should not figure in the matter. If the public will be benefited by the granting of the franchise asked for, let it be given under proper restrictions and agreements. If not, it should be denied. The pleasure of saying yes must not be indulged in unless it is for the public good. If that is likely to be promoted, the sooner the answer is given the better.

MAJUBA HILL ANNIVERSARY.

Last Friday Lord Kitchener reported that a combined movement against the Boers, near Harmsmith in the north-eastern part of the Orange colony, had resulted in the loss to the enemy of about 600 men and a multitude of horses and cattle. The engagement lasted for two days, and the reports of success caused much satisfaction at home.

But yesterday's dispatch from Pretoria cannot fail to throw a shadow upon the previous record. It states that a British convoy met with disaster in the Transvaal colony, near Klerksdorp, where the British lost over 600 men in killed, wounded, and prisoners. The disastrous fight is said to have lasted only two hours.

The two battles seem to have been fought almost simultaneously, and in commemoration of Majuba hill. The Boer movement against the Boers at Harmsmith terminated on the 25th, the anniversary of the Majuba hill disaster. The honors, as far as these engagements go, appear to be even, although the advantage is decidedly on the British side, because the men taken prisoners by the Boers will be set free and can continue the fight, while those taken by the British are placed outside the scene of conflict permanently.

It is a subject of much wonder, that the Boers, after their long, hopeless struggle, are able to make any resistance at all. But that is far from admitting either the impossibility or the impracticability of the plan.

among some old papers he secured from a junk dealer. It is as follows:

"Hon'd Sir:
I am now with the army of His Excellency General Buller, on the line of march leading from Pt. Cumber-land to Pt. Necessity. While it is useless for an inexperienced officer like myself to dictate what an army should do, yet it behooves me to write you that I am sure from what I have seen that His Majesty's forces are doomed to certain defeat. I am, Hon'd Sir, Braddock is a brave man, but inexperienced in Indian warfare."

"This wonderful country impresses me more and more each time I go through it. I am sure, Hon'd Sir, that it is destined to outlive some day and outgrow His Most Christian Majesty's home country—England. These mighty forests of soft and hard woods will furnish the ships of the world and with the native stones build the residences of future generations."

"Again, what is beneath the soil? There may be stored mineral wealth which will astonish the countries of the Old World, while the fuel of the future may also be found here. The road laid out by Col. Crease and his Indian guide Nemocon, which now rugged and steep at places, if not followed directly, must be approximately the line of travel for the settlement of the great unknown West, and the modes of travel, I am sure, will change from the saddle-horse to comfortable, swift conveyance propelled (who knows to the contrary?) by the unbridled, unseen elements which we know, lie dormant in Nature all around us. To the right of our camp on the Savage mountain and hills, Creek Mountain, is a wondrous site for a city and as I muse by the campfire I imagine that here will be the metropolis of His Excellency Lord Baltimore's colony."

"Now, Hon'd Sir, pardon me the freedom with which I write and return with my servant who delivers this, a message containing the news relating to the welfare of our friends and your views of this undertaking. With assurances of my esteem, I am, Hon'd Sir, Your obedient servant,
G. Washington."

It is claimed by Latter-day Saints that the founders of the Republic were raised up and inspired to do their work for the benefit of mankind. This letter certainly shows that the writer had a more than ordinary view of what was then a remote future. He saw this country outgrowing Great Britain, and taking the lead in industrial and commercial enterprises, at a time when to the ordinary mind that appeared almost impossible. Was it the visions of the future that inspired him and others to struggle until the work of their lives was accomplished?

ZIONISM POSSIBLE.

A London dispatch some days ago announced that the leaders of the Zionist movement anticipated important developments as a result of a visit of Theodore Herzl to Constantinople, whither he had been called by a telegram from the sultan. What Dr. Herzl asks for is a charter granting some simple form of home rule and opening the Sultan's crown lands to Jewish colonization. A representative of the Jewish Colonization association, which was endowed by the late Baron Hirsch with a large sum of money, is also said to be at Constantinople, which is taken to signify that the trustees of the Baron Hirsch fund are about to concentrate their resources upon Palestine.

The American Israelite, a paper edited by Isaac M. Wise, interprets this to mean that the Zionists have abandoned the political part of the program, and intend to devote themselves to aiding Russian and Roumanian Jews in settling Palestine. The Israelite adds that it cannot even believe this to be "acting wisely."

The objection raised to the plan is one which sounds rather strange when coming from a Hebrew source. Our contemporary says:
"Zionist enthusiasm and the income from the de Hirsch millions can do much, but it takes successful colonists in Palestine out of the people who would flock there would be a miracle, and therefore, beyond human power. The settlement of the Jews in Palestine has been going on for a century or more with the result of turning the country into a gigantic alms house into which millions of money have been poured to be used in rearing generations of unfortunate paupers, each of which was more degraded than that which preceded it."

Why, the chief epochs of Jewish history are marked by miracles. Their existence, to this day, as a people is a miracle. If there is no other objection to the plan than that which may be urged on account of the apparently insurmountable difficulties, the Zionists need not feel discouraged. The same Power that led the children from Egypt, and later from Babylonia, and by whose word they have been preserved a distinct race among the nations of the earth, is still mighty to gather a remnant and make that the bearer, the central point, the focus of a more brilliant civilization than the world has ever seen. This may, as the Israelite remarks, be beyond "human" power, but that is far from admitting either the impossibility or the impracticability of the plan.

liberty, but he will take any amount of freedom of action back to his native land.

Miss Helen Stone is going to lecture on her return to the United States. And this is the people's reward for ransoming her!

Chicago dealers in "puts" and "calls" feel very much put out by the decision of the United States supreme court upholding the Illinois law.

Just because the country was entertaining a Prussian prince, the Storm King had to break loose and show that he had some power.

Senator Mason speaks of the governor of Illinois as "governorite." The expression shows that either the senator or the governor is very small.

Turkey can scarcely be blamed for repudiating responsibility for Miss Stone's capture, seeing that the sultan did not get a "whack" at the ransom.

One of the wonders of the age is the supply of Boers, seeing how many the British have captured and transported. They seem to be as plentiful as repeaters at an election.

The Boston Transcript draws a moral from the New York Park Avenue hotel fire. It appears to be about the only thing saved from that terrible conflagration.

The Marquis of Londonderry says that wireless telegraphy is the greatest invention of the age. Yet England cannot grant Marconi a signal station. But then it should be remembered how small England really is.

Higher education is expanding in this country. This year's attendance at the ten largest universities of the country is reported by Dr. Garman, the registrar of Columbia, as follows: Harvard, 5,576; Columbia, 4,402; Michigan, 3,816; Chicago, 3,727; California, 3,540; Minnesota, 3,536; Cornell, 3,216; Wisconsin, 2,912; Yale, 2,686; Pennsylvania, 2,520.

President Roosevelt is determined that the interstate commerce and Sherman laws shall be enforced and that the railroads shall respect them. And there is no doubt they will be. Nothing could be more shameful than the declarations of disregard of the interstate commerce law, made by railroad officials before the commission when holding investigations in the east last summer. Such open contempt of law never before was shown.

The editor of the Ogden Standard, still smarting under conviction for violating the health ordinances of the city, persists in making unsupported charges against his Salt Lake fellow citizens. He arises to personalities, showing a vindictive spirit, and covers his assertions by "it is said," thus endeavoring to avoid making direct attacks. "It is said" simply lies in both instances alleged, and every sane person ought to understand that if the lies happened to be true, they would not condone the offense for which the Mayor-editor was fined nor alter the facts in his case "one iota."

TILLMAN AND McLAURIN.

St. Paul Globe.
It is a comparatively few weeks since both of these men made outward plays of desiring to withdraw from the Senate, and the question of political difference existing between them. If they were not deceiving themselves then, they are now deceiving themselves. They have now the opportunity by which they can do an act of justice to the Senate which both of them desired to clear their names for offending. Their resignations are in order. If they do not resign they should be expelled.

Chicago News.
Those men have no place in Congress and if they remain there it must be evident that their usefulness is gone. It is true that Tillman was an aggressor, but McLaughlin was evidently a more aggressive man. He has caused the outbreak. This nation has borne Tillman's abusive scurrility for years, but it cannot tolerate either his or his adversary's total disregard of public decency. To pass over their offense with any sort of mere reprimand will be to condone it. If they have not the decency to resign, the Senate should make use of its constitutional authority and expel them.

San Francisco Chronicle.
Whatever is done must have no result except the expression, in the extreme form permissible, of the indignation of the country at the outrage and the determination of our most dignified legislative body to rebuke and punish the assault on the majesty of the nation as represented in its membership. Doubtless we may rely upon the Senate to properly assert itself and to make such an example of the senators from South Carolina as shall assure the preservation of its dignity for the future.

Chicago Record-Herald.
Holding Tillman and McLaughlin guilty of contempt of the Senate does not purge the record of the infamous insinuations made against McLaughlin by Tillman. Here is a matter which the Senate must inquire into if it does not wish the whole country to hold it in contempt for making more of its dignity than of the spotless reputation of its members.

New York Sun.
If anybody thinks that the scene of Saturday, so exceptional nowadays, indicates a deterioration of manners, even let him turn to the earlier records of what has become the most dignified and courteous legislative body in the world.

Kansas City Star.
Tillman's apology in the Senate did not have the effect of justifying the assault made by him on McLaughlin, but it did have the effect of making the circumstances which have not before been recognized by the public. In substance, Tillman asserts that the lack of decency on the part of the Senate is due to limitations which he is not wholly responsible for. He is free to admit that his training in the school of South Carolina politics has not been such as to fit him for membership in the upper house of Congress. He ventures that house that he is somewhat more civilized than he was when he entered the Senate seven years ago, but he does not hold out the belief that he has yet become so much of a Chesterfield as not to be betrayed into lapses of propriety by the "slavish submission to party domination," which often vexes him. This places Tillman in a new light altogether.

Springfield Republican.
The charge of Tillman is notoriously true in every essential feature, and the only thing left for an investigating committee to determine is whether McLaughlin changed his coat in the hope of doing what he has with a previous promise; or if the latter supposition is true, how many and what ad-

ministration senators, if any, were responsible for the bargain. This is one of those scandals connected with the Philippine treaty which no amount of upbraid over Tillman's traveling conduct can hide from present view or history.

Boston Herald.
The nearest to a precedent, we think, was what occurred in the period more nearly preceding the outbreak of the civil war. Henry S. Foote, a senator from Mississippi, and a talkative personage had become exasperating to Thomas H. Benton of Missouri. Benton was large and lordly, Foote was small and waspish in his manner of discussing with Benton. One day, after Foote had been teasing Benton until the patience of the latter was exhausted, Benton suddenly started in person toward him with what Foote supposed to be a threatening purpose, upon which Foote drew a pistol and put himself in an attitude of defense. Benton, seeing this, stopped in the senate aisle, threw his coat back from his breast, pronounced the purpose of Foote to be that of an assassin, proclaimed "fear" unmannered and dared Foote to fire. Senators then at once interfered, and there was no further trouble between the parties.

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