

HISTORY OF THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH

What This Company Has Done in The Way of "Connecting Up" With the World.

OPENS MONDAY IN SALT LAKE.

How John W. Mackay Came Into Possession of the System and What He Did for Its Advancement.

The establishment in Salt Lake City of the telegraph and cable service of the Postal Telegraph-Cable company, and their opening for business Monday next, make interesting at this time the history of the growth and a statement of the present extent of what is claimed to be one of the largest and perhaps the most efficient telegraph and cable systems in the world.

Early in 1851, the Western Union Telegraph company, under the leadership of Jay Gould, acquired control of all the commercial telegraph lines in the United States and Canada, and before the end of that year had combined the Western Union cables with the several other cable companies in a pooling agreement, thus forming a complete monopoly of the telegraph business of this continent, and across the Atlantic ocean. The smaller companies that had previously been built up inevitably proved unprofitable, and impossible of permanent maintenance, every one of them having been founded upon mistaken notions of the telegraph business under various so-called improvements in methods of transmission, reduced rates, rebates and other forms of bidding for business which soon proved to be ruinous; or upon a speculative plan not designed to be permanent, but to do the most harm in the shortest time, for the purpose of being "bought off." The most available routes for the construction of telegraph lines between principal points had been fully occupied, rights of way had become very difficult and expensive to obtain; the telephone was just beginning to assume other than local importance, and by many people was already deemed such a strong competitor for the transmission of intelligence as to seriously threaten at least the growth of the telegraph.

Under such circumstances it was a common belief on the part of the public, and also of many of the best informed telegraph managers and employees, that competition in this business was at an end; that no capital would be found to undertake the building of new lines, and that no telegraph officers having the necessary experience and ability to conduct the business successfully, would hazard their reputation by entering upon so hopeless an enterprise. But the demand for competition between principal points, the growing requirements of large business houses for private wires, and the disposition to exploit new systems of transmission, together with the regulative element which seems always to be on the alert to make something to sell, resulted in building up within the three subsequent years, a more extensive, diverse and damaging competition than had ever before existed. The "Mutual Union," the "American Rapid," the "Bankers and Merchants," the "Baltimore and Ohio," the "Southern," the "Board of Trade," the "Pacific Mutual," and the original "Postal" were among the most extensive and important of the corporations that were formed, and all were competing with each other as well as with the Western Union company, in the most wasteful manner. The original "prospects" of the Postal company, setting forth expectations of vast profits from small expenditures through the use of compound steel and copper wires, transmission at a very low rate, made uniform, regardless of distance; business relations with the postoffice department of the government, and other extrava-



A REMARKABLE MONOGAMIC UTAH FAMILY.

The picture is of the Jex family of Spanish Fork, Utah. On Sept. 5, 1901, the family gathered at the old home to do honor to "Grandpa" Jex on his seventieth anniversary. A roll call showed all present, and an even one hundred. It was suggested that an opportune time for a family picture had presented

itself and the above group was taken. The aged couple in the center are William Jex and Eliza Goodson Jex; they are surrounded by their four sons and seven daughters; eleven sons-in-law and daughters-in-law; 65 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. The venerable couple who stand at the head of this large family are both in good health and are leading active lives at

the present. William Jex is senior president of the Fifteenth quorum of Seventy, while Mrs. Jex served many years as president of the Relief society of the ward, and besides rearing their family with great credit—all being in good standing in the Church to which they early in life gave their unfaltering allegiance—they have done much for Utah progress. In the family group are four Bishops, sixteen ward officers, four

stake officers, the postmaster and mayor of the city. Mr. and Mrs. William Jex identified themselves as young people with the "Mormon" Church in England, at the usual sacrifice of home and friends. They soon after embarked for Utah, and after several weeks' rough sea life they decided to travel the remainder of the trip and life's voyage as man and wife, and were married on shipboard. They were

among the early settlers of Salt Lake City, reaching the city in 1854. As the family assemble annually—New Year's day (Mrs. Jex's birthday)—to extend congratulations, they wonder how many years yet the spacious old home will accommodate; and the old folk look anxiously forward for the fifth generation, and feel they in no wise fall under the ban placed upon those who contribute to race suicide.

gant and Utopian theories, leads one to wonder that so intelligent men as its original promoters were, could have been so sanguine of the success of their scheme.

In this almost chaotic condition of the affairs of the telegraph, Mr. John W. Mackay came into control of the property bearing the "Postal" name. He was without knowledge of the details of the telegraph business, but with broad conception of its usefulness, and firm faith in its growth, he determined to establish a business on a permanent basis, and under methods protective alike to the patrons of the telegraph and those who invested their money in maintaining and increasing its usefulness. With this purpose in view from the first, he brought into his services men of large experience in both telegraph and cable business, of known industry, integrity, and sound and conservative judgment, and to them he left the development of the business, and the means of escape from the then prevailing chaos, almost as completely as if they had themselves been the owners of the properties. Possessed of ample resources and unlimited patience, he brought about the

laying of new and superior cables across the Atlantic ocean, the reorganization of the Postal company upon a reduced basis of capitalization and free from bonded debt, the adoption of the practical and business-like methods, the just and considerate treatment of the public in all its varied interests, the cordial and friendly relations between employer and employee, and the result today is the establishment upon a firm and financial foundation of the "Postal-Telegraph-Cable Company," having a land-line system claimed to be many times greater than all previous competitors of the Western Union company, built and equipped in a substantial and "up-to-date" manner, and with cables not only connecting with Europe, but across the vast Pacific ocean.

To Mr. Mackay, primarily, and to those associated with him, in part, the American people are indebted for rates of telegraphic transmission as low as it is possible to afford in view of the great cost of constructing, maintaining and operating substantial lines; and also for the wholesale regard for the public interest and convenience which has characterized the Postal company, and

The Postal Telegraph company was organized in 1886, two years after the Commercial Cable company, and the properties in the United States now owned and controlled by the company represent an investment aggregating over \$25,000,000.

The pole mileage of the Postal system is now 49,012 miles of land lines, the wire mileage is 281,715 miles, and the points reached are 20,341. Of the points reached, 1,782 in 1903 were reached by no other telegraph company. Nearly 4,000 new offices were added last year. The number of messages handled by the Postal in 1903 was 21,909,577.

In 1901 the Commercial Pacific Cable company was organized to lay and operate a cable from San Francisco to the Hawaiian Islands, Midway, Guam, the Philippine Islands and China. This cable, which is nearly 8,000 nautical miles in length has been completed at a cost of about \$12,000,000, without asking any subsidy from the government. It is believed that the cable line will be extended to Japan in the near future, which only genuine and efficient competition can secure.

SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT.

Commercial Club's Attitude on the Interurban Explained.

In view of the careful wording of the recommendation to the city council of the interurban railway scheme by the board of governors of the Commercial club, Manager Harris of the club takes exception to the following editorial paragraph in one of the morning's papers:

"Be that as it may, the club's name has been endorsed on an application for a franchise which requires in return no guarantee of any road construction out-side Salt Lake, no guarantee of Mr. Muller's good faith or ability to build the road, and no guarantee that the line projected and desired, namely from Payson to Logan, will ever be built."

As opposed to this, Mr. Harris calls attention to the exact resolution of endorsement passed by the board of governors, which reads as follows:

recommending that the petition referred to herein be granted with such modifications, limitations and assurances as will, in the judgment of your honorable body, insure the construction and operation within a reasonable period of the said interurban railway between the termini hereinafter named."

Mr. Harris does not consider the above as any blanket endorsement; but rather one suitably and duly provided with "modifications," "limitations," and "assurances" that the road will be constructed "between the termini hereinbefore named," the same being Logan and Payson.

Cures Winter Cough.

J. E. Gover, 101 N. Main St., Ottawa, Kan., writes: "Every fall it has been my wife's trouble to catch a severe cold, and therefore to cough all winter long. Last fall I got for her a bottle of Horehound Syrup. She used it and has been able to sleep soundly all night long. Whenever the cough troubles her, two or three doses stops the cough and she is able to be up and well." 25c, 50c, \$1.00. Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

MOUNT PELEE IN ERUPTION AGAIN.

It Has Been Active for a Few Days, Emitting Enormous Quantities of Smoke.

VERY LITTLE DAMAGE DONE.

Entire Neighborhood of the Windward Islands Covered by Clouds of Ashes.

Port De France, Island of Martinique, Thursday, Oct. 6.—(Delayed in transmission)—The report that there has been a serious eruption of Mount Pelee is not true. There has been great activity on the mountain during the last few days, and a week ago the volcano emitted enormous quantities of steam and ashes. On Sept. 29 the mountain was throwing out steam all day forming a dense cloud 8,000 or 10,000 feet high. This escape grew less violent as night approached, but after dark there were two points on the cone that were brilliantly lighted, while at the foot of the dome was a hole from which fire escaped into the valley below, but not in sufficient quantities to occasion damage.

New York, Oct. 7.—Owing to an interruption in telegraph lines, messages from the Island of Martinique have been badly delayed. Between Cape Haytien and Puerto Plata, on the island of San Domingo, it is necessary to send them by courier, involving 12 hours' delay. It is believed that Mount Pelee is once more in eruption and the entire volcanic of the windward islands is covered by clouds of ash. Direct dispatches from Port de France are expected during the day.

FUNERAL OF BARTHOLOMI.

Was an Imposing Ceremony, Attended by Hundreds of Mourners.

Paris, Oct. 7.—The funeral of Bartholdi took place today, and was a most imposing ceremony. It was attended by hundreds of mourners, including public officials, students and monks. The American embassy was represented. The hearse was covered with wreaths and flowers. Ambassador Porter's offering was a large wreath. Conspicuous in the throng were numerous modest gatherings of working people. A company of soldiers was drawn up at the Bartholdi residence and the body was received with military honors at Mont Parnasse cemetery.

Recuperative Effect.

Considered with reference to its recuperative effect, there is not so much good in the ordinary vacation as there is in a single bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla. The latter costs \$1; the former—well, that depends; how much did yours cost last year?

Hood's Sarsaparilla refreshes the tired blood, sharpens the dulled appetite, restores the lost courage.

The Royal Month and the Royal Disease.

Sudden changes of weather are especially trying, and probably to more than to the scrofulous and consumptive. The progress of scrofula during a normal October is commonly great. We never think of scrofula—its bunches, cutaneous eruptions, and wasting of the bodily substance—without thinking of the great good many sufferers from it have derived from Hood's Sarsaparilla, whose radical and permanent cures of this one disease are enough to make it the most famous medicine in the world. There is probably not a city or town where Hood's Sarsaparilla has not proved its merit in more homes than one, in arresting and completely eradicating scrofula, which is almost as serious and as much to be feared as its near relative—consumption.

Going To The Fair?

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To St. Louis without change of cars. Leave Salt Lake 3:15 p. m. daily arriving at St. Louis 6:00 p. m. second day. Compare these figures before accepting the claims of our competitors.

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