TO CHEAPEN TALK.

A Scheme Whereby Every House May Have Its Own Telephone.

A NEW COMPANY'S PROMISES.

It Will Take Advantage of Expired Patents to Benefit the Public, the City and Itself.

[San Francisco Call.]

San Francisco will soon have telephones at $2 a month.

The main telephone patents have expired and a big company of local capitalists are going to spend $500,000 right away in putting in a great system in this city, and there are several interesting features of this new scheme.

On Monday night ex-Governor Geo. C. Perkins, ex-President of the Traffic association J. B. Stetson, John D. Spreckels, Louis Sloss, W. F. Fuller and others presented a petition to the board of supervisors asking for a franchise to lay conduits throughout the city for a new telephone system, including also incidentally telautography, known as the transmittence of writing, and also telegraphy.

The contemplated enterprise is one of great importance to the city if the plans proposed are carried out, and will greatly lessen the cost of wire communication to those who need its use. It also means competition with the established companies, which will bring about an increased use of the telephone, and this will necessarily involve the employment of more labor.

James B. Stetson, who is one of the moving spirits of the new enterprise, was seen last night for the purpose of gaining more definite information about the proposed new system than could be obtained from the meager petition to the board.

"We mean business," said Mr. Stetson, "in this matter, and have large capital to carry out our plans. The character of the men who are at the head of the proposed corporation is enough to insure its success. We have been earnestly considering the subject for six months past, knowing that certain telephonic patents would expire. When these patents did expire at the first of the year we got together and concluded to start a new company, seeing that the extortionate rates charged were entirely too high and that there was money in the establishment of a new system.

"Mind you," said Mr. Stetson, "we have considered all the difficulties in the way, and have had the advice of the ablest electricians on the subject. When the telephone patent expired the transmittence of sound became as free as air. The enormous royalties that had to be paid before were stopped. We will have to pay nothing for the transmittance of sound, as other companies have been compelled to to the extent of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Consequently we go into the business at a great advantage. It is like taking the toll off a road, where all can pass free.

"You ask me if there are not other patents still in existence which will not allow us to give as efficient a service without paying royalty? No! there are not. The hearing over our wires will be as perfect and distinct as over any other company's. The patents which we cannot use relate simply to construction and convenience. It is like some of those among the different type-writing and sewing machine companies. Yet the great underlying principle of these, as well as the telephone, is now free.

"There is only one pattern which we cannot control, and that is a device for long distance telephoning. We do not propose, however, to establish communication with Los Angeles. Our business will be confined to San Francisco and the vicinity. Our object is to establish a cheap system, which will be at the same time profitable, and so teach folks that a telephone will be a necessity in every household and business place, so that any one can remain in his house and communicate all over the city at a slight charge.

"There is one thing that I would like to say about our petition for a franchise, and that is that we propose to give the city free use of wire for fire alarm and telephone purposes. If our franchise is granted it will cost the city nothing to telphone. Of course, this will be confined to public offices. Besides, we have offered to pay for the franchise any reasonable sum that the supervisors may fix. This is in accordance with the new spirit of progress, and is a substantial recognition of the rights of a municipality. We do not expect our privileges for nothing, but it will be the first time that the city has ever been paid for a franchise.

"Since the expiration of the telephone patent a new company was formed to lessen rates in Chicago, and I understand is just about to be placed in operation. We propose to do the same thing here. If our franchise is granted we will have our system in operation within six months. According to all accounts there is a great crowd of unemployed laborers in the city, many of whom have petitioned the park commissioners and board of supervisors for work. If our petition is granted we will set immediately to work about 200 of them. Skilled labor will not be needed for all the preliminary work. We will expend $500,000 within six months to set our scheme in motion. There will be no loaded securities in our company. The $500,000 I speak of will be all subscribed capital.

"We were disposed to incorporate first, but concluded to get our franchise before taking this step. We considered this matter carefully, and did not say a word about our intentions until we filed our petition, which must have been a surprise to the other companies."

Mr. Stetson intimated that the new company had control of certain patents and rights for the proposed system, and said that the right to the use of the telautograph system had been already purchased by the capitalists who were the head and front of the undertaking.

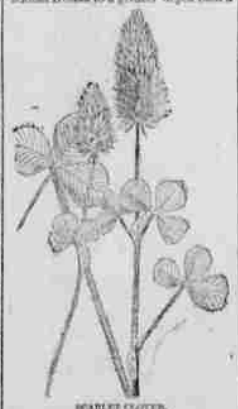
He said that the rates to be inaugurated by the company would be $2 a month at first and if war was declared the company would take care of itself. The present rates are $5 a month. Regarding switch rates for outsiders Mr. Stetson said the company had not come to any conclusion, but that they would be on a proportionally cheap basis. The present rate is 5 cents a switch.

CRIMSON CLOVER.

A Few of the Many Statements That Are Made About This Plant.

Crimson clover, also called rose-t, scarlet, German and Italian clover, is an annual lover indigenous to northern and central Europe. Crimson clover is very hardy and thrives upon soil too light to yield satisfactory crops of red or white clover. On suitable soil the yield is one to two tons per acre of one cutting. The quality of the hay is fully equal to that of red clover. This clover has been prominently brought before the public latterly by glowing reports of it in bulletins issued from the Delaware experiment station, North Carolina station and individual farmers in different sections of the country. Here is what is said of it in a bulletin issued from the North Carolina station:

Crimson clover has a peculiar and very great value for the light soils of the cotton belt. In this region the ground very seldom freezes to a greater depth than a



SCARLET CLOVER.

few inches or remains frozen longer than a day or two at a time. From such soils the residue of the costly nitrates supplied in mixture for the summer crop very readily leach away unless there are growing plants to take them up. Hardy plants like crimson clover grow well (except for a few days after each "cold wave") during the winter and may be utilized as pasturage, or, if left until spring, will furnish a good crop of hay or green manure in time to vacate the land for corn or cotton. Crimson clover is better than red clover for mixing with rye or barley for winter pasture.

This clover should be sown in the furrows of the cotton or cornfield when the crops are cultivated for the last time. The seed may also be profitably sown in the spring upon the winter wheat, oats or rye sown the fall before. When the cereal crop is mown, the clover will soon take possession of the stubble and furnish a crop as valuable, or more so, than the one first cut. Crimson clover will catch on suitable land by merely harrowing the soil with a heavy harrow, such as the Cutaway, Acme or Disk, or even upon the stubble land without any cultivation. The time when winter grain is usually harvested in this latitude—June—is too late for sowing crimson clover. One year will then give better results.

A Kent county (Del.) correspondent of The Country Gentleman writes, "Crimson clover is an annual doing vastly better sown in August to grow in the fall and spring and ready for cutting either for hay or ensilage, or to be plowed under as manure the 1st of May following, than in any other way that it can be treated, as it does not do well sown in the spring in this climate." Thorburn says, "Crimson clover sown late in summer furnishes a nearly green fodder the following season; is largely sown in Virginia, 20 pounds to the acre." Henderson of New York says: "When a single crop is required either alone or with Italian rye grass, this is one of the best clovers. It makes good hay and is excellent for feeding green, the yield being immense, and after cutting it begins to grow again and continues until freezing weather. It can be sown in the fall for early spring cutting, but is generally sown in the spring for cutting in July. It is suitable to all soils, but to light and chalky soils more especially, on which it outyields by far the ordinary red clover and is earlier than that variety by two or three weeks. Sow, if alone, 15 pounds per acre."

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