

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP OF TELEPHONE SYSTEM

(Continued from first page)

Wellington—"Some of the city council would like to take a look there at the foundation I was on the street eight feet, and the city council made me go back. If he can come in and take fifty feet of the street and he couldn't stop, is that right?"

Allen says the matter to the street committee.

Saxon suggesting it under advisement, McDonald seconds the motion, Motion cries.

Saxon—"The street committee has a right to revoke it."

Wellington—"It is being built now."

He is assured at they will act at once.

Allen—"We voted to be decent to the company. We thought the street would not open so granted permission to M. Wheeler."

Saxon—"Street committee look into it and take that action you see necessary."

McDonald—"As."

Saxon—"You're chairman. You take what action you wish. Mr.

Holt, do you wish to see the city council about anything?"

Holt—"No."

Saxon—"Mr. Rutherford, do you wish to see us?"

Rutherford—"In regard to the light they changed at the alley near by building. I think the idea was to fix it so the light would shine up the alleyway. Now the light is right behind the pole."

Saxon—"The street committee has that in their power to change."

Rutherford—"You ordered the light put in."

McDonald—"I didn't order it that way. I only ordered it put in."

Allen (to Mr. Quick, Recorder)—"Do you understand how it is. There is a pole there with the light on it. There is an alleyway there. By turning it an angle of forty-five degrees, it would light the alleyway."

Saxon—"What else have you, Mr. Recorder, before the committees?"

Quick—"We have this bid here yet, and we have an ordinance."

Saxon—"Only one bid?"

Quick—"That is all I have, it hasn't been opened yet."

Allen—"Before we take up this particular business, I would like to make a statement regarding the meeting at the last session. We have two ways of adjourning it seems.

One is an adjourned meeting and the other a meeting adjourned. This is really a continuation of the last night's meeting. I didn't understand we had any bids the other night, and as I had other business to attend to, I meant for you people to stay here and talk things over. I couldn't see any business, and with no discourtesy to anyone, I went, and I want to make that right."

Saxon—"The city would like to have more than one bid."

McDonald—"To have just the individual bid, don't look quite right. It don't look like business. We aren't duly bound to accept it."

Saxon—"If we open that bid and it is published, we can't accept others then."

McDonald—"We don't have to publish it."

Saxon—"It would be just as good as published, if it would be public property."

Chapman—"We have two bids now. Mr. Saxon has one and Mr. Quick has one."

Quick—"Do you want to open it now?"

Saxon—"No, hand it to the chairman of committee."

Same was handed to Chapman.

Saxon—"Give it to the recorder to open, that it what he is here for."

Allen—"Has anyone any objection to opening it?"

No objection being made bids were opened by Quick.

more than \$500.00."

Saxon—"The check to be for \$500.00 and then the bond to be given later."

Day—"The certified check usually accompanies the bid, to force the party to enter into the contract or reimburse the city in case he doesn't, but the bond is to hold the city blameless relative to any accident. It would be for about \$2500.00, at least half."

Saxon—"What else have you got, Mr. Recorder?"

Blakesley—"Mr. Mayor, before you leave that talk, I have a man who will furnish those logs and if you want to get the floating dock started you can do so."

McDonald—"Water is high now, so I think we had better build the other dock."

Saxon—"The floating dock has nothing to do with that dock. What have you next there?"

Quick—"It is an ordinance for the establishing of a city health officer, his remuneration and duties, and health laws, etc. I have also a copy of an ordinance—an amendment."

Allen—"This is referring to this health. Portland has a late amendment to their ordinance."

Chapman—"Let us hear what it says?"

Allen then reads amendment.

Happy New Year

Another year has come to a close and I wish again to thank my many friends for their patronage in the past, and hope that I may be able, in the larger quarters which I expect to occupy after February 1st, to serve them more efficiently in the future than I have in the past.

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Discussion on Plans of Dock

Saxon—"These are the plans, such as they are. What is your impression? There is one 50x60 feet and one 50x70 feet."

Allen—"Do you want to decide tonight or think it over?"

Chapman—"We can accept the bids tonight subject to an agreement if they cannot submit bonds that it would be off."

McDonald—"A man does not feel like putting up money for bonds until he knows they would accept his bid."

Morton—"Mr. Mayor and Council, Mr. Allen will tell you and I can also state from my experience that it is usual to require a certified check for at least ten per cent of the contract price, the check to be forfeited to the city in case the contractor does not go ahead with the work as per contract, and then a bond should be given which would be for your safety."

Allen—"We ought to take into consideration what are we to do if we accept these bids, and I suppose they are going to give us something else."

Saxon—"If we refuse these, we have to re-advertise."

Chapman—"I make a motion that we accept Mr. O'Connor's bid."

McDonald—"I will second it, with the understanding, provided we can make a legal contract so as to be satisfactory."

Saxon—"All in favor say aye."

Ayes carry it, there being no contrary noes.

Saxon—"Ayes have it."

Allen—"Quick, just what was that?"

Quick—"Provided that he furnish suitable bonds and that we can make an agreement and get a certified check."

Saxon—"It would be \$5000.00 bonds. He will have to put up a certified check for \$500.00 to show that he wishes to faithfully perform this; when he puts up a bond, the check will be released. Mr. Day."

Day—"I think it requires to be

WALDEN DILLARD HAS A NARROW ESCAPE

(Continued from page one)

ing pretty much all along the line, we moved again in trucks to Montfaucon. Here we were in it more than ever. The Germans hated to go along this sector and they put up some scrap. This was the first time that I saw the ground really covered with dead Bosh and some dead Americans, though few compared with the Bosh. At Montfaucon I had what might be called a somewhat narrow escape. We were shelled continuously day and night and bombed at night also. Two days before we got there there were fifteen engineers killed and the following day, nine, working on the road through our dump. The first day and night there we slept in "pup" tents, but when a shell landed in the midst of our tents while the men were out at work, I decided that we had better move into dug-outs. Not more than half an hour later a shell burst within a hundred feet of my tent, killing two horses, one officer and one enlisted man of an artillery outfit. That night we were shelled and bombed but nothing of damage happened to our dump; after that it was the same thing daily and nightly.

Has Narrow Escape

Luckily most of the German shells were duds and did no damage, unless they scored a direct hit. I have timed the shells for hours at a time, there and some nights we got as many as one every three or four minutes. One night I was laying in bed awake, having been awakened by the whistle of the shells, and was counting them (about one every four minutes) most of which failed to explode, when all at once there was a crash and dirt was thrown all over my bed and the shell cases (brass) of the roof rattled like they were all falling in; there was one flash of light in the dug-out and it was thick with smoke and about that time I had my shirt and boots and helmet on and was outside looking the matter up. Well, the shells continued to come the rest of the night, but since the dugout didn't cave in, my pal and I climbed back in and slept the rest of the night. The next morning we discovered the shell hole. Our dugout had two rooms. A bed room and a sitting room, each about five or six by eight feet. The only entrance was in through the "sitting room." There was a wall of dirt about two feet thick and one row of empty boxes between the two rooms. It was possible to stand upright in the first room, but the floor of the bed room was about two or three feet higher than that of the former, thus it was only possible to stand on ones knees with his head bent in the bed room. The whole business was below the surface of the ground. The shell, a six incher, entered the roof of the sitting room through the corner of the entrance and here the fuse was set off. It then went into the wall between the two rooms and down under our bed not more than two feet from my side. Thanks to bad ammunition or good luck it failed to go off. The shell probably went down eight or ten feet. We had a direct hit on a pile of high ammunition but the shell was a dud also and failed to cause an explosion, and did no damage except to burst two six inch shells without exploding them.

Had Work Aplenty

Of course, I can't mention all the shellings and bombings now, but I'll soon be home to tell of them. We've had a plenty of work both night and day and we still have, but it's almost over. I expect three months will see us starting for a port. Well, when the Germans got out of range with us at Montfaucon we were moved to Montigny and—the war was over. But Uncle Sam is certainly taking no chances. We're showing ammunition forward on the broad gauge now and real U. S. A. engines are pulling the loads.

Wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I'll be home soon after. We've fine quarters here. Old German shacks, and they're dandies. Two other sergeants and myself live in a large room in the center of a small building. Cement walls on two sides. Real glass windows, good banks and mattresses, plenty of candles and oil lights, a good big flat topped stove, real chairs, a circular saw for a griddle and a good can for a coffee pot and we have the best hot-cakes and coffee to be gotten in France.

We have a large looking-glass, and I've combed my hair for the first time in over a month, but I haven't bathed since my bath in the shell-hole which I mentioned in a previous letter. It doesn't thaw out during the day now. Plenty of ice, but no skates.

Love to all.

SGT. WALDEN DILLARD,

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