

MUNICIPAL 'PHONES.

British Cities Abandon Experiment After a Short Trial.

Every City That Tried to Run Its Own "Hello" System Got Poor Service and Lost Money.

By WALTER F. BURGESS.
The act of parliament of 1899 permitting municipalities to borrow money for the purpose of establishing municipal telephone systems was taken advantage of by the corporations of Glasgow, Tunbridge Wells, Hull, Portsmouth, Brighton and Swansea. The record of each has been one of financial failure. At the outset it was stated by practical telephone engineers that the plans and estimates on which the systems were to be built were fallacious and would inevitably lead to disaster.

The municipality of Glasgow, which trades in everything from street cars down to lodging houses for hoboes, was the first to take advantage of the act. Their license was granted in March, 1900, and was valid for a period of thirteen years. Instead of adopting a modern common battery system they decided to install a modification of the old law system, which had already been discarded by telephone companies. Almost immediately following the opening the predicted faults became apparent, and changes in the plant became necessary. So many methods of working the telephone were introduced that the department rapidly became a byword and a reproach, and in July last the plant was sold after being in operation barely five years at a loss to the taxpayers of \$200,000.

Obsolete engineering methods were not confined to Glasgow. At Portsmouth and Swansea the clearing signals were operated by push buttons located at the subscribers' stations, while at Brighton and Hull the clearing signals were given by a momentary earth contact made by the rising and falling of the switch book. The service given by these municipalities was so poor that the increase of subscribers, which was at first rapid owing to the cheap rates and the glowing promises of an efficient service, almost ceased. Official statistics show that the National Telephone company for the year 1905 added 10,503 stations in the competitive areas as against 2,149 stations added by the municipalities themselves. Although Glasgow was the largest of the municipal systems and conspicuously the worst from a technical point of view, its financial losses were not proportionately greater than either of the other municipalities, which were all small and struggling concerns. For instance, the balance sheet of the Brighton municipality shows that the constructional estimates were exceeded by 40 per cent, and the whole concern was sold last August at a loss to the taxpayers of \$18,500.

Further investigations of the financial statement of the municipalities show that it was their practice to discriminate in the taxation of their own undertakings and those which were operated under private control. A fair example of this discriminating policy may be found in the statement for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1905, of the Brighton municipality. The capital expenditure up to this date on the telephone system amounted to \$217,750. At the rate for that year the undertaking should have been charged with about \$3,707 for taxes, whereas the balance sheet shows that only \$296 was actually paid.

The Swansea corporation is the last to discover that the operation of municipal telephony in practice and theory is entirely different, and they have just decided to cut their losses and sell out. As they were the last of the six municipalities to enter into the

telephone business, their selling out may be referred to as the "swan song" of municipal telephony in Great Britain.

Immediately they announced their intention the local press was inundated with letters of protest. The mayor was requested to convene a town meeting to discuss the proposed sale. At this meeting a number of speeches were made and a deal of enthusiasm displayed. It was resolved that the subscribers to the municipal system should be invited by circular to agree to pay an increase on their rate, amounting to \$5 per annum for three years, and thus avoid the sale.

Considering the loud trumpeting of the "profitable" results that had been claimed at the existing rates, this proposal seems to be more than passing strange. The result of this highly original poll is extremely amusing. The official statistics of the telephone system show that there were 1,487 subscribers, so, judging from the enthusiasm displayed at the meeting, one might have anticipated that the municipality could count upon an increase of revenue amounting to at least \$7,000 per annum from the proposed canvass. In the circular sent out it was stated that no reply would be construed as a refusal to pay. Now for the result:

Total number of subscribers circularized..... 900
Agreed to increase rate..... 247
Refused to pay..... 129
Agreed conditionally..... 57
Did not reply..... 477
It will be noticed that out of 1,487 subscribers after four years of active development there were only 900 who could be circularized on a question of payment, and out of this number 75 per cent would not pay a beggarly \$5 per annum even for sentimental consideration. Surely no outside criticism can so pointedly indicate the utter feebleness of municipal telephony in Great Britain.

Summons.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Clackamas County.
J. V. Gilbert, Plaintiff
Vs.
Jennie H. Gilbert, Defendant.

To Jennie H. Gilbert, defendant: You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled suit and court on or before the expiration of six weeks from and after the first publication of this summons, to-wit: the 7th day of September, 1908, and if you fail so to appear and answer said complaint, for want thereof the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief prayed for in this complaint, to-wit: for a decree against you dissolving the bonds of matrimony now existing between you and plaintiff on the ground of desertion and cruel and inhuman treatment. This summons is published pursuant to an order duly made and entered in the above entitled suit on the 22nd day of July, 1908, by Hon. Grant B. Dimick, Judge of the County Court for Clackamas County, State of Oregon. The date of the first publication hereof is the 24th day of July, 1908.
NEWTON McCOY,
Attorney for Plaintiff.
Address, Room 715, Oregonian Bldg., Portland, Ore.

Boy's Life Saved.

My little boy, four years old had a severe attack of diphtheria. We had two physicians; both of them gave him up. We then gave him Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy which cured him and believe that saved his life.—William H. Strouling, Carbon Hill, Ala. There is no doubt but this remedy saves the lives of many children every year. Give it with castor oil according to the plain printed directions and a cure is certain. For sale by Hantley Bros., Oregon City and Molalla.

Child Cut With Scissors.

While playing, Sunday, with a pair of scissors the 18-months-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Ely of this city was painfully cut, falling on the scissors, cutting a severe gash in her nose. Dr. Sommer was summoned and the child is getting along very well.

Stanley Bros. Rough Riders.

One of the best attractions ever seen at our ball games is to be put on Sunday, July 26th, when the Oregon City Bros. are to play the Clackamas team; following this game the Stanley Bros., the famous rough riders from Montana, will give a two hours' exhibition of the most famous and daring bronco and exhibition riding with the largest band of hardest knocking horses ever gathered together. Their program will include the sensational and daring Russian Drag from horseback, pick up, rope spinning, Roman hypodrome, and two hours' continuous performance of exciting and blood-thrilling sport with fearless horses by fearless riders. Many outside horses will be brought in and ridden by the boys free of charge. They will also be assisted by local riders of considerable importance.

Mountain View.

We failed to send in our communication last week as we were at Chautauqua like every one else in the berg. Improvements still go on.

Ed Gottberg has bought Mr. Moran's blacksmith shop and is making his shop into a dwelling house.

F. M. Amen, of Kingsley, Oregon, was here last week and bought the house and lot in this place belonging to J. Pierce and daughter Betta.

P. D. Curran spent a few days of last week here among relatives and friends. He is quite poorly lately.

Frank Baid and wife of Maple Lane have bought Mr. Raymond's property on Molalla avenue, and took possession last week.

Mrs. Jackson's sister Mrs. La Hay, of Estacada, has moved into Mrs. Boha's house on Division street.

Messrs. Chester Elliott, Austin Nickels and others, made a pleasure trip to the mountains last week.

Ernest Brand is sojourning in the mountains this week.

J. M. Gillette and O. W. Dickerson went to the cattle ranch on the Molalla, last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Wood, of Seaside, were visiting relatives and friends here last week.

Grandma Clark attended camp meetings at Canby and returned home last week.

Mrs. Gillett has found two gold pins lately.

Born, July 10th, -1908, to Mrs. Mabel Omond, a son.

Mrs. Laura Bullard and daughter Gladys, spent Friday last week on the West Side visiting her brother Ed and wife. They have a big 12-pound boy.

Miss Edith Hayward is visiting with her cousins at Canby.

Miss Edna Gard, of Clatsop, is attending the Summer Normal at the Barclay and boarding with Aunt Maggie Harrington.

Mrs. Fisher and her sister, Mrs. George Waldron, have gone to the hot springs near The Dalles, Mr. Fisher boards with Mr. Gillett and family.

Miss Irene Olanie, of Hillsboro, is visiting with her cousins, Lillian Gillette and Pearl and Ruby Francis.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous membrane. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give one hundred dollars for any case of deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars free.

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Sold by druggists, 75c.
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Mr. Henry O'Mally, Supt. of U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, and Mr. T. Sullivan, Hydraulic Engineer for P. R. L. & P. Co., of this city went to Casadero Monday to look over the ground for the fish hatchery, and investigate the water supply for the many basins.

HOW MOLLY SAVED PLEASANTVILLE.

By ARTHUR H. GRANT.

Pleasantville had waked up. The center of a rich farming district, it had grown so quietly that it hadn't realized that it had outgrown its short dresses, so to speak, until Henry Graham, the enterprising manager of the Pioneer Electric company in Milldale, eight miles away, asked for a franchise and a contract to light its streets with electricity, which he proposed to transmit from his recently enlarged Milldale plant.

Pleasantville was divided between a sense of shame at having so long been content with oil lighted streets and delight at the prospect of having its beautiful elm shaded streets as attractive in the evening as they were by day. The city fathers had discussed the project, and a final vote was to be taken at the council meeting on Thursday evening. Graham had made the proposition that was fair to Pleasantville and yet would give a good profit to the stockholders and was congratulating himself on having done a good stroke of business, for a practically unanimous vote was assured, when, as usual, the unexpected happened.

On Wednesday afternoon trouble alighted from the westbound express in the person of Hiram Stickney, a stoutish, middle aged man of the "glad hand" type, but with little wrinkles around his eyes, which, to the wise, were danger signals of a more sinister character than was revealed by the jolly smile with which he greeted the clerk of the City hotel.

"Electric light contract let yet?" he asked of that rather sleepy functionary.

"No, but it will be tomorrow night."

"Maybe so and maybe not," replied Stickney as he followed the bellboy to his room.

"Twenty-four hours was all he needed to make his "maybe not" come true, for as the representative of the Slicker Manufacturing company he had become expert as a franchise killer and as a builder of municipal plants.

A week later he and the mayor were seated side by side on the platform of the largest hall in town. The final vote of the council had been postponed, and Stickney was that night to show



the people of Pleasantville how narrowly they had escaped the wiles of the shrewd Graham and how much better it would be for them to have a lighting plant of their own.

"We have with us tonight," began the mayor, "a gentleman who has made a special study of the lighting problems of cities like Pleasantville, and whose coming to us at this juncture seems to me little short of providential. He will tell you tonight what he has previously told your representatives in the council, and I have no doubt that you will agree with us that it was wise to postpone action on the proposed lighting franchise. I have the pleasure of introducing to you Mr. Hiram Stickney of the Slicker Manufacturing company."

Stickney had not been idle during his week in town. He had the history of Pleasantville down as fine as the oldest inhabitant. He knew all its ambitions, its jealousies of neighboring towns, the range of trade of its merchants, and had taken the gauge of almost every man of any prominence. He began, therefore, by skillfully playing upon all the strings of local pride and envy and ambition until, when he reached the climax of his introductory remarks, he had his audience just where he wanted it.

"Get your current from Milldale? Send your money to build up your rival? Become a mere appendage to another city? How long before you would find your customers following the wires over to Milldale, and saying, 'If Pleasantville has to get its current from there, why should not we get our goods from there? Where would your political leaders stand in the county conventions when the Milldalers would refer to them as representatives of one of our suburbs? Not Pleasantville must not mortgage its future in any such way. It is strong enough and brave enough to stand on its own feet. And it can do it'—here he was interrupted by a perfect storm of applause—"and it can do it, and save money in the bargain!"

Then he plunged into the details of a municipal lighting plant. Boilers, dynamos, transformers, were described as already the property of the thriving little town, until the audience saw the completed plant and felt that sense of proprietorship which is dear to every right thinking American. "And the entire plant can be installed in four months, and at a cost which will not exceed \$10,000—in fact, my company has authorized me to make a contract with you for a trifle less than that sum. If it can be signed within two weeks, as this is the hot season in the year of our business."

When he sat down, mopping his rather bald forehead—for the oil lamps

in the hall were helping out the temperature of an August night—the mayor rose again and stated that although Mr. Stickney had covered the ground very thoroughly, an opportunity would be given to any citizen to question him. Later a vote would be taken in order that the council might know the wishes of its constituents.

The city engineer, whose training and experience were limited to land surveying and setting the grades for the streets and sewers, felt that his position required him to show that he was not dazzled by all the technical terms which had been used. Addressing the mayor, he said:

"Mr. Stickney has told us that the capacity of this plant would be 100 kilowatts. I would like to ask him whether that is its maximum or its minimum capacity." [This question was actually asked under the circumstances described; in fact, the main points of the story are a matter of history in a prairie city.]

Stickney never cracked a smile as he replied: "The question is well put. A hundred kilowatts is the normal capacity, but the plant can carry the overload for half an hour or so of twenty-five additional kilowatts."

While some other questions were being asked by prominent citizens, anxious to maintain their prestige, Molly Zimmerman was whispering earnestly to her brother. Molly was a high school girl, who had been studying electricity the winter before. With a few others, she had gone over to Milldale to see how this mysterious current was generated, and Graham, proud of his up to date plant, had shown the little party through it, explaining to them the various pieces of machinery with which it was filled. Molly's bright eyes had noticed the hooded dynamo at one side, and it was in answer to her question that he explained about the duplication of parts for use in case of a breakdown. "And now we have seen the whole plant," said Molly as they were thanking Graham in the office.

"Oh, no," laughed he, "only one part. The other part is the one that wanders all over the town, lights the streets, carries the current to the stores and houses and distributes the surplus power to the factories."

And so, as Stickney talked, he was speaking to one auditor, at least, before whom there rose up a picture of a really up to date plant, and who was bright enough to see the discrepancies between his \$10,000 outfit and what was really needed to light her city.

Perhaps if it had been somebody else's brother instead of her own who was seated beside her, she might have persuaded him to ask the questions which she was too shy to ask for herself. But Tom Zimmerman was more intent upon listening to what the president of the Pleasantville bank (whom Stickney had primed on the subject of bonds) was saying, than on the half audible whispers of his curly headed sister.

Right behind them sat Dr. Grey, who had known Molly all her life. The doctor did not know anything about electric light plants, but he knew that Molly had a wise little head, and when he overheard one of her urgent whispers, he leaned forward and half playfully asked:

"Are you trying to get a spokesman, Molly?"

"Oh, Dr. Grey! Please ask him why he has not said anything about transmission lines, and poles, and street lamps, and meters, and what we would do if the one dynamo should break down!"

"Easy, easy, little girl," said the doctor. "Remember, I am in the infant class (for Molly taught that at Sunday school), and tell me the story gently, as to a little child."

Molly blushed, but after a few minutes of whispering the doctor rose and asked one by one, though hardly in their logical order, the questions that Molly had suggested.

The doctor's first question, "Does the estimate include meters for commercial lighting?" was parried by the glib answer:

"Oh, the customers would buy their own meters."

"Yes, but how much would the meters cost?"

The wrinkles overpowered the smile on Hiram Stickney's face, as he realized by the doctor's quiet way that he was no longer dealing with make believe questions, but with the real desire for knowledge of a man who was accustomed to look beneath the surface of things. Admission after admission was forced from him, until the truth stood revealed that his "complete plant" was only a generating plant, with no provision for distribution, and a poorly equipped one at that. He was a game fighter, however, and did not leave town until after the next council meeting, when franchise and contract were both voted without dissent.

He had done the town one service, however, for the franchise included a proviso that the name of the company should be changed to the Milldale and Pleasantville Electric Light company. None of Stickney's unfavorable predictions was fulfilled, for Pleasantville has grown at the expense of some of its rivals who had no Molly Zimmerman to save them from smooth contract agents and whose tax rates have grown faster than their industries.

Molly's share in the affair was soon generally known, for Dr. Grey was proud of the fact that the quick wit of one of "his girls" had been of such service to the city, and two years afterward, when Molly became Mrs. Henry Graham, the present that she prized most highly was an electric chafing dish, for the card that accompanied it was inscribed, "To the Girl Who Saved Pleasantville, From Her Spokesman."

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Children Interested in Fair.

Prizes of \$3, \$2, and \$1 are to be offered to the school children of this county for best letters to any friends in Clackamas, Marion, and Washington counties showing why these friends should be interested in the coming Clackamas county fair. The letters are to be written to County Supt. Gary, on or before Aug. 15, who will grade them and forward them to the parties for whom they are intended. Age of pupils will be considered, which will give pupils in various grades an equal chance.

Help for Those Who Have Stomach Trouble.

After doctoring for about twelve years for a bad stomach trouble, and spending nearly five hundred dollars for medicine and doctor's fees, I purchased a small box of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets, which did her so much good that she continued to use them and they have done her more good than all of the medicine I bought before.—Samuel Boyer, Folsom, Iowa. This medicine is for sale by Hantley Bros., Oregon City and Molalla. Samples free.

Often The Kidneys Are Weakened by Over-Work.

Unhealthy Kidneys Make Impure Blood.

It used to be considered that only urinary and bladder troubles were to be traced to the kidneys, but now modern science proves that nearly all diseases have their beginning in the disorder of these most important organs.

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Therefore, when your kidneys are weak or out of order, you can understand how quickly your entire body is affected and how every organ seems to fail to do its duty.

If you are sick or "feel badly," begin taking the great kidney remedy, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, because as soon as your kidneys are well they will help all the other organs to health. A trial will convince anyone.

If you are sick you can make no mistake by first doctoring your kidneys. The mild and extraordinary effect of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy, is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases, and is sold on its merits by all druggists in fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles. You may have a sample bottle, *Bottle of Swamp-Root*, by mail free, also a pamphlet telling you how to find out if you have kidney or bladder trouble. Mention this paper when writing to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., 903 2-24 0017.

Summer Rates to Yaquina and Newport.

Round trip tickets to Yaquina and Newport are now on sale at Southern Pacific depot at rate of \$6.00, good to return within six months from date of sale, which closes October 15th. Round trip tickets good going on Saturdays and returning the following Monday, \$3.00. Call on or address E. T. Fields, Agent, Oregon City.

George C. Brownell

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