

The New Age

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WRETCHED TELEPHONE SERVICE

The Oregon Telephone system in this town is a proper subject for a radical reform. For some reason the daily papers refuse to say a word in behalf of an abused and indignant people, and it is time some public voice made a "roar." The New Age is not accustomed to making complaints; it prefers to be sociable and agreeable with people generally, and especially with such as perform questionable services. The "hello girls," though some of them are thought by vexed telephone users to be incompetent or saucy, are not to blame. In the first place they are not more than half paid. They ought to strike, and insist on decent pay for their exacting and important work. The trouble is that there are so many girls who want a job of this kind that a strike might not be effective; and unless there is an assurance that they would win their point, it would be bad policy to strike.

But the present telephone monopoly in this city is a disgrace to civilization, and an outrage upon a long suffering public. The complaints about the service are not only numerous; they are almost universal. House-keepers have to wait for hours to "get" their grocer, or druggist, or laundryman, or any body. If they keep trying, the chances are that they are simply ignored. They have to put on their hats and go and do the errands that the telephone is supposed to help them to do without expending this time and going to this trouble.

Furthermore, the service, as conducted, is a rank swindle. Go to a phone in a drugstore or other business place and call up the number you want and the response is "drop a nickle, please." Well, you drop your nickle, and often get—soup—no body. There frequently is no effort made apparently to do the service for which you paid your nickle. You supposed when you put your nickle in the slot that it would pay for connection with the person you desired to speak to, but not so; the hello girl does not know whether she has "got" or can "get" the desired party or not; she demands your nickle, and then perhaps makes a feeble effort to find out whether you can be served or not, and she doesn't care at all whether you are or not. Thus a man may drop three, five, or a dozen nickles in the slots of this institution without getting a cent's worth of value received—on the contrary, he aggravated, annoyed and incensed. This sort of swindle is going on daily, hourly, all over town. Our good mayor and other good officials are desirous of putting the gambling slot machines out of business, but here is a gambling device that they seem to approve of. It is purely a "gamble," when one drops a nickle in the telephone slot, whether he will win or lose, with the chance heavily against him. The chance is rather better in a cigar store machines of winning a 10c cigar with a nickle.

Let it be repeated and emphasized that the "hello girls" are not to blame. It is the system that is at fault. It is the greedy grasping intolerable monopoly that controls this business that is to be attacked. They not only do not more than half pay the girls who work for them, but they do not properly serve the public; they furnish inefficient, unsatisfactory and even, in respect of the "drop-a-nickle, please" graft, a rascally service.

The public ought to demand good, prompt efficient service from this monopoly, or else appraise their plant and property and take charge of the business. The facts being fully shown up, it is at least probable that the courts would sustain a law for this purpose. When a monopoly that is making millions ceases to serve the public properly, insults and outrages the public that it falsely professes to serve, it ought to be destroyed.

EXPORTS OF FLOUR.

One of the most important and interesting subjects now under consideration by the business men and politicians of the country, and especially of the Pacific Coast, is that of trade with the Orient. We expect to build up a great trade with those multitudinous peoples, and to have an opportunity of doing so, as we could not otherwise, on account of our possession of the Philippine Islands. One of our chief exports, and the one for some years to come at least of most importance and value, is flour, and

thanks to the energy and enterprise of one of our leading business men, we already have a large and secure foothold in the Orient for this trade. Mr. T. B. Wilcox, the master spirit of the large and successful concern known as the Portland Flouring Mills Company, has made repeated trips to the leading Oriental ports; has studied conditions on the ground, and knows just what is required there, and how to supply it, not only with profit to his company, but to the wheat producers of the Pacific Northwest. He has done, and is doing more for the farmers of Oregon than any other single man in this city or State. By making a market, or finding and developing an oriental market for our surplus flour, he helps to make every farmer prosperous, and when the farmers prosper all the people prosper.

Mr. Wilcox has done a grand, practical work in this line, and his example is worthy of imitation and emulation by other leading business men, especially shippers and exporters.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYSHIP.

The appointment of a district attorney to succeed Governor-elect Chamberlain is a subject of much remark recently, although the appointment doesn't need to be made till next January. The public has confidence to believe that Mr. Chamberlain will do the right thing, and what is best, if it shall be decided that he has the power to make the appointment—as it seems to be generally agreed that he will.

While The New Age does not wish to offer the governor-elect any advice, of which he may have already too much, it seems proper to remark that the deputy district attorney, originally selected by Mr. Chamberlain, no doubt on account of his fitness for the office, is properly "in the line of promotion," and judging by his record during the past year he is entirely worthy of the promotion that he is likely to receive. Mr. Manning deserves the appointment, not only on account of his merit in this respect, but because of his fine energetic work for Mr. Chamberlain and the Democratic ticket last June.

The practical working of the office has been largely in Mr. Manning's hands, and he has performed his duties energetically and faithfully. He deserves promotion and the public expects that he will receive it.

PORTLAND POSTMASTERSHIP.

As soon as Senator Mitchell returns and the Oregon delegation gets together to consider appointments, a change in the postmastership of this city would be very acceptable to the majority of the people. Postmaster Croasman has already served over four years, and apparently needs and desires a rest, or a change. The people also wish a change. The New Age does not deny it has a grievance of its own. Its city subscribers say that papers mailed Saturday are not in many cases received till Monday or even Tuesday. It also hears of other complaints, from patrons of the office. In fact, there is quite a general sentiment in favor of a change in the postmastership here. Sometimes four or five years is enough for a man to hold an office; after the lapse of this period he becomes a little too large for the office, or indifferent to the welfare of the public that he is paid liberally to serve.

Several changes of federal officials may be desirable, but the postmastership should not be deferred longer than necessary. We shall have to wait, however, till "the delegation" gets together, and Senator Mitchell decides what is best for the public interests.

THE SOUTHERN OREGON LYNCHING.

The people who lynched the Negro at Marshfield yesterday committed a crime that ought to be punished. An example should be made of these lynchers, or some of the leaders of them, so that such a disgraceful crime will not be repeated in this State. The district attorney and sheriff should search out those offenders and deal out justice to them. While the Negro's crime was inexcusable, and while the law does not provide a sufficient penalty for such a crime, yet there is no excuse for this species of lawlessness. Oregon is thereby disgraced and humiliated, and the governor ought to exercise all the authority and power he has to see that the lynchers are punished, as a warning to others who are tempted to like acts of lawlessness.

ATTENTION.
Is directed to the G. A. R. Convention to be held in Washington, D. C., October 6th to 11th inclusive, 1902. We can sell you tickets at rates which make going to the convention cheaper than staying at home, and we make enough out of it so that we are not "On the County."

Tickets sold only on September 29th and 30th.
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Commercial Agent Illinois Central R. R., 142 Third street, Portland, Ore.

MISSISSIPPI DRIFTWOOD.

A Boon to Many Poor People Who Live Along the Banks.

A slight rise in the Mississippi up in Kentucky, said an old river man, is a blessing to many of the poorer classes of this city. A three-inch rise up above brings down a vast quantity of driftwood, and at the floating docks of the ferry landings great rafts are formed. You can see the boys every evening armed with long poles, with a spike in one end and a coil of rope at the other end, spearing the good pieces of timber just as a whaler harpoons a whale. They grow particularly expert, and I noticed one boy a day or two ago who could hit a log in the center the first throw and bring it to bank. This meant a supply of fuel. Many of the parents of these little ones cannot buy the fuel necessary to keep them warm, and the river furnishes it sometimes and sometimes it does not.

Much of the timber has been freshly cut and left by the cutters over night, when the river comes along and lands it here. I saw two fine ash logs yesterday, enough to keep a family going for a week, and the water had scarcely soaked through the bark. Of planks there is a great plenty, and also some barrels and all kinds of things. The river is no respecter of timber or persons for that matter, and brings down the farmer's barrel half filled with pork just as readily as a water-logged and useless trunk of a cypress tree. It has often been a source of wonderment to me how many people do actually live from the products of the river. I have never seen the figures as to what proportion of the population of the valley subsist on fish and get their wood from the overflows. I have been from St. Paul to New Orleans several times, and at all of the river towns you will find the boys ready for the overflow season. This, however, applies more particularly to the section of the river below St. Louis. But all along there is the fishing industry, less of it here than elsewhere, because of the proximity of salt water, but above here it is a flourishing business.

Seeing the boys spearing logs reminds me of the case of a man who agreed to pay the negro 50 cents a day if he would collect driftwood for him. The negro worked faithfully, and the man was selling the timber at a big profit, of course. Finally, at the end of two years, after the white man had grown too proud and too well off to work, the negro found he had just the same right to the timber the white man had, and he was the maddest creature in the boundaries of the United States. He is not over it yet. In fact, he was so disgusted he will not catch wood even for himself.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Poor Actresses' Costumes.
In Germany there is a society for the relief of needy actresses. As ordinary actresses have to supply their own costumes it is often most difficult for those who are poor to obtain good engagements, says Home Notes. Accordingly certain practical philanthropists started a society for their benefit.

The society is now in its second year, and in the first report it is stated that "branches have been established in Berlin, Cologne, Munich, Stuttgart, Carlsruhe and Mannheim, and it is intended to have a branch in every German city of importance before the end of another year. In every city the business of the society is conducted by a joint committee of wealthy society women and the most conspicuous actress in the place. So far the demand for costumes has been much larger than the supply, but this condition has only impelled the women workers to greater activity."

Discouraging.
District visitor, to mother of newly converted Hoiligan—So sorry to hear your boy is laid up, Mrs. Plimpe! Nothing serious, I hope? Mrs. Plimpe, in the gloomiest tones imaginable—Pew-monia, miss, pew-monia! Comes o' sitting in that draughty church o' Sunday.

Beasley a Shade Too Attentive.
"Mr. Beasley, did Mary's lamb have much sense?"
"I don't know. Why do you ask?"
"Cause sister said you'd make a good under-study for it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer



As the ice grows colder it gets harder and more brittle. There can be no hickory bend on a skating pond on a zero day, for the ice then is too brittle. Silvers of ice dipped into liquid air become so hard that they will cut glass. Water thrown on ice in the Arctic regions will shiver it like pouring boiling water upon cold glass. This is because the ice is so much colder than the water.

According to the Lancet, the essential oil which forms the basis of all perfumes is a powerful antiseptic, and possesses disinfecting properties equal to those of carbolic acid. For this reason a scented handkerchief may not only please the sense of smell, but prove a guard against infection, and it is suggested that this fact may tend to reconcile those who do not like perfumes to their free use by those who do like them.

The new light-ship for Diamond Shoal off Hatteras is furnished with electric apparatus designed to send a perpendicular pillar of light high into the sky directly over the vessel. It is hoped that this light may be visible from the decks of ships thirty or forty miles away at sea, whereas the mast-head lights can be seen only thirteen miles away. If this form of beacon proves successful, it will be adopted for other signal-stations.



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Best creamery butter, roll	30c and 35c
Four pounds nice dried apples	25c
"Wheat-O," 15c sifter, per package	50c
Table peaches, pears, apricots, can	12c to 25c
Lemons, per doz	10c to 25c
Best valley flour, sack	70c
Choice pink beans, 8 lbs	25c
No. 1 white beans, 7 lbs	25c
No. 1 lentils, 6 lbs	25c
Best prunes	4c to 5c
1 lb can Shilling's baking powder	40c
4 pkg Jumbo mash (10 lbs)	25c
Macaroni, box	25c
Cornmeal, sack (10 lbs)	25c
English breakfast tea, a good one, lb	35c
Fancy Mocha and Java coffee (50c kind)	30c
"U. S." Mocha and Java coffee (25c kind) lb	25c
"Victor" brand coffee (25c kind) lb	25c
"Rex" coffee, a good one, lb	25c
Toothpicks, 3 pgs	10c

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