

PHONE COMPANY'S BUSINESS PRAISED

C. O. Bickelhaupt Declared Fairest Yet in Testimony.

POOR SERVICE IS DENIED Commercial Problem Engineer Says Selective Ringing System Is Good, but Costs More.

SALEM, Or., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—The only purpose the American Telephone & Telegraph company has in the business world is to give the most satisfactory service at the lowest possible cost to the greatest number of people, according to C. O. Bickelhaupt, commercial problem engineer of the company, who was a witness before the public service commission today.

Mr. Bickelhaupt admitted that selective ringing devices were practical, but held that to add such devices to a telephone exchange would increase costs which must naturally be reflected in rates.

When this witness had concluded, Assistant City Attorney Tomlinson told the commission that he felt that Mr. Bickelhaupt was the fairest witness who has appeared before the commission in the present hearing.

Mr. Cousin joined in commending the witness, requesting the commission to require his continued attendance at the hearing until it was concluded. The commission refused to follow this suggestion.

Attorneys for the telephone company sprang into action when they called Leonard A. Andrus, a stockholder in the American Telephone & Telegraph company, to the stand to permit him to introduce and explain a treatise prepared by himself on the financial condition of the American and Bell companies.

Mr. Andrus is a consulting engineer with offices in Portland, and it was explained to the commission that he had prepared his treatise for publication purposes and had submitted it to officials of the Pacific company as the means of checking certain portions of it. So complete was the analysis contained in the paper, it was said, that the commission requested to withhold it for publication in order that it might be used in connection with the present hearing.

In submitting his report, Mr. Andrus made it plain that he had not attempted to analyze or pass upon the local rates for service, but depending entirely upon the annual reports of the American company and Moody's financial analysis, he had checked certain statements, which had been used by critics of the rates, to determine the accuracy of such statements.

"I found that almost without exception, these commentators have used only such facts, as published in these reports as would bolster their case, but, by accepting these parts as accurate, they tacitly acknowledge the accuracy of the whole," his report reads.

"If all the facts presented in the reports had been used, I would have no quarrel with the telephone company's critics, but when only half the truth is stated or incomplete analyses are depended upon to establish a case, an attempt should be made to provide as thorough an analysis of the operations of these companies as may be made from such sources."

GOVERNOR OLCOTT IS SNAPPED IN MIDST OF PRETTY TELEPHONE OPERATORS.



GROUP OF PORTLAND TELEPHONE GIRLS WHO TESTIFIED BEFORE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION LAST WEEK.

Capital Declared Short.

After going into the various charges and earnings of the American company, Mr. Andrus asks that the 3 per cent return paid to stockholders of the American company does not reflect an overflowing bounty of a period of prosperity, but instead an act of necessity. He points out that the company is short of capital, is restrained by law from making its stock below par, and therefore it must do the thing that is necessary to hold its stock firm, well above par.

Mr. Andrus takes the position that it is the stockholder and not the telephone user who might complain about the side of these surplus funds. He says that if the Western Electric company is overcharging the Bell companies or apparatus, the surplus charges accumulated since the inception of the business, over 40 years, the report states, while the American company has been building up these funds over a period of 20 years.

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BIG WILL FIGHT FORECAST

TACOMA PROPERTY INVOLVED IN MURRAY CONTEST.

Attempt to Settle Case Out of Court Expected in Order to Avoid Delay.

SALEM, Wash., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—Tacoma and Butte will be the centers of the big legal battle over the James M. Murray estate, according to General James M. Ashton, Tacoma attorney, retained by James E. Murray, a nephew of the dead millionaire, to represent him and others in the case.

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ALIMONY MENACES FARM

Divorced Wife of Woodburn Man Presses for Money in Arrears.

SALEM, Or., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—Failure to pay alimony may cause John A. Fitch of Woodburn to lose his home, should Judge Benjamin uphold contempt proceedings filed here today.

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Silk Purse Really Made of Sows' Ears. Fallacy of Old Proverb is Proved by American Chemist. CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Aug. 20.—A silk purse made from sows' ears, as chemistry's answer to the old saying that it couldn't be done, will be shown at the chemistry exposition in New York during the week of September 11.

Home Robbed of Furniture. SALEM, Or., Aug. 20.—(Special.)—Unidentified robbers some time Thursday night visited the home of Mrs. William Patrick, located about a mile west of Salem, and carried away practically all the furnishings of the dwelling with the exception of the kitchen range. Investigation by the officers today indicated that the men were using a Buick sedan and an automobile truck in carting away their loot.

Blue Bird—Tonight Special Sunday Announcement Boat leaves 7:45 P. M., anchors at Sellwood ferry—returns 11:45 P. M. THREE HOURS OF DANCING (Billy Webb's Orchestra) Fast launches every 20 minutes from Morrison-Street Bridge to and from the Buxton. Autos and street cars to Sellwood or Fulton Ferry; launches every 10 minutes. COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE

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