

CONTROLLING FLOODS ON RAGING MISSISSIPPI.

The dikes of Holland, so famed in history, are toy affairs compared to the vast levee system which Uncle Sam has constructed in the effort to tame the Mississippi river.

Picture an area equal to the States of New Jersey, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut, filled with cities and farms, and you will begin to get an idea of the size of the "overflow territory" which lies lower than the surface of the river when the Father of Waters goes on his spring rampage.

With the Mississippi higher than it has ever been in recorded history, it is impossible to estimate how much of the levee-protected area is under water. In addition to the lands flooded along the Mississippi proper there are countless square miles inundated by the floods of tributary streams. The flooded territory probably would make a sizable European country.

The levee system, as an engineering project, is comparable in its magnitude to the Panama Canal. It was begun more than 200 years ago, soon after the French settled Louisiana, and it isn't completed yet. Until 1882 levee construction was carried on as a State and local affair.

In that year the Federal government decided to co-operate, and since then hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on the levees. No less than half a billion cubic yards of earth have been thrown up to construct them.

No accurate estimates as to the cost of completing the system are available, but Congress has been appropriating at the rate of \$10,000,000 annually for it and is pledged to appropriate another \$30,000,000 in the next three years.

The Mississippi River Commission in its last report to Congress announced that 1,185,000 miles of levees had been completed and that the project called for the protection of a territory more than 600 miles long and fifty miles wide. These levees extend almost continuously along the west bank of the river from Cape Girardeau, Mo., nearly to the mouth of the river. The east bank is protected by high bluffs at Memphis and between Vicksburg and Baton Rouge, but levees are necessary approximately four-fifths of the distance.

When it is remembered that the Mississippi drains a watershed of 1,240,000 square miles, representing most of the territory bounded by the Rockies and the Appalachians, the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico, it is not surprising that when the great river goes on a spree it does it in a wholehearted manner.

Normally about a mile wide, it expands its width in places to as much as fifteen miles, still keeping within its levees, and it has been known to rise as much as sixty-two feet. Its width, strangely enough, is narrowest at New Orleans, but its depth there is also the greatest. At one point in its channel opposite New Orleans it is 215 feet deep.

It is navigable for ocean-going vessels for two hundred miles from its mouth. Its channel at low stage is thirty-five feet all the way up to Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana, and that city, with its oil exports, has become one of the largest ports in the United States. Farther up the river, the constant deposits of silt carried down from the north make dredging necessary to maintain a nine-foot channel during the dry season.

The principal cities which lie below the top of the protecting levees contain a population of more than 500,000. New Orleans, the metropolis of the South, contains areas which now are more than twenty feet below the surface of the river. The levees there are twenty-five feet high. In 1922, when all flood records were last broken, the crest of the river reached to within four feet of the top of the levee.

Other cities dependent upon levees to keep out the floods are Baton Rouge, with a population of 21,000; Greenville, Miss., with 11,000; Helena, Ark., with 9,000, and Cape Girardeau with 10,000.

Even in flood, the Mississippi never loses its dignity and always refuses to hurry. It seems to play the raging torrent like lesser rivers. It moves on majestically, rising slowly but mightily. That is why its floods are such long-drawn-out affairs. It takes thirty days for the crest to travel from Cairo to New Orleans.

Army engineers are strongly committed to the policy of completing the levee system as the most feasible method of solving the flood control problem on the Mississippi. They believe that adequate levees insure the greatest flood protection at the lowest possible cost. They contend the lowlands along the Mississippi can be made virtually flood-proof by levees.

Many elaborate and costly systems of flood control by the construction of huge reservoirs to take up the overflow have been proposed after the design of that worked out by the City of Dayton after its disastrous flood in 1913. But the Mississippi offers a problem in flood control so much greater that adoption of the reservoir plan is not advisable, in the opinion of army engineers.

Likewise, they give respectful attention to the reforestation argument and agree with much of it, but they consider reforestation only an incidental step in the task of controlling the mighty Mississippi.

Women Not "Weaker Sex".

While the race always has regarded man as the stronger of the species he's actually woman's superior only where tests of physical power are concerned. In actual vitality and resistance to disease woman is his superior, says Dr. Harvey W. Wiley in Good Housekeeping Magazine.

"Most people think that women as a rule are more prone to disease, less resistant to suffering and quicker to give way to bad health," he says, "but statistics do not support this

idea. Women's average life is two years longer than men's. They go through pangs of childbirth which men could not withstand. They give their vitality to the welfare and upbringing of their children," and still do a share of the world's work that matches man's, he points out.

Trial List for May Court.

Following is a list of the civil cases to be tried during the second week of the May term of court, which will begin on the 23rd:

Gordon Brothers Incorporated, a corporation, vs. M. D. Kelley and H. P. Kelley, trading and doing business as Kelley Bros. Coal Co. Assumpsit.

Andrew Thal and Bertha Thal, his wife, vs. J. V. Foster. Trespass.

C. E. Hartsock vs. E. W. Winslow. Trespass.

James F. Perry vs. Elmer E. Watson and Nannie E. Watson. Ejectment.

Philip D. Foster vs. J. D. Musser. Replevin.

M. I. Gardner vs. Highland Clay Products company, a corporation. Assumpsit.

George A. Reiber vs. P. R. Campbell. Trespass.

Della Reiber and George A. Reiber vs. P. R. Campbell. Trespass.

General Motors Acceptance Corporation vs. H. A. Mark Motor Co. and Alfred P. Butler. Replevin.

W. B. McLean Manufacturing Co., a corporation, vs. James Cocolin. Replevin.

Charles S. Stover, trustee under the last will and testament of J. Henry Stoner, vs. A. J. Cummings, Admr. of the estate of Nora M. Cummings, deceased and A. J. Cumings, individually. Sci fa sur mortgage.

Dr. Celestin Simr, vice consul of the consulate of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, Pittsburgh, attorney in fact for John Mintuck (John Mento) two cases, one against the National Union Fire Insurance Co., of Pittsburgh, and the other against the United States branch, the London Assurance Corporation of London, Eng. Assumpsit.

Diet and Cancer.

The theory advanced by many persons that eating a natural or wild diet will prevent cancer has apparently been contradicted by recent experiments, reports Hygeia Magazine. When mice, the type of animals especially suited to cancer experiments, were placed on various diets, those fed the wild diet had the highest cancer mortality and those fed an apparently unbalanced diet had the lowest. There was not the slightest evidence that fried or well-cooked food was associated with an increase in cancer.

—The "Watchman" is the one reliable newspaper in Centre county on which you can depend for all the news that's worth reading.



NEW MANAGER FOR BELL TELEPHONE HERE.

F. L. Richards, at present manager here for the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania has just been appointed special commercial representative for the company in Williamsport, effective May 1.

Mr. Richards has been manager here since February, 1925, and his friends in Bellefonte and vicinity are congratulating him on his new appointment.

His place here will be filled by J. H. Caum who has been plant wire chief in Huntingdon for the Pennsylvania Bell organization since 1920. Mr. Caum joined the Bell company at Altoona in 1913 and has served in many capacities which have given him a vast amount of experience in telephone work, eminently fitting him for his new office.

Mr. Caum will have complete charge of the various telephone departments operating here. In announcing the change the Telephone company stated that all reports in regard to telephone service should continue to be made to the chief operator and that anything requiring repairs should be reported to the repair clerk, as at present. All other business with the company, they say, should be referred to the manager's office.

—Equal parts of olive oil or melted butter and vinegar rubbed over fresh meat will keep it in good condition for several days, besides adding wonderfully to its flavor and tenderness.

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BELLEFONTE, PA

Your Telephone Patrol

YOUR SERVICE depends on more than just the way your own instrument and line are working.

Any moment you may call for connection with a telephone two, ten, a hundred or a thousand miles away.

Your call may hop underground and emerge somewhere across town.

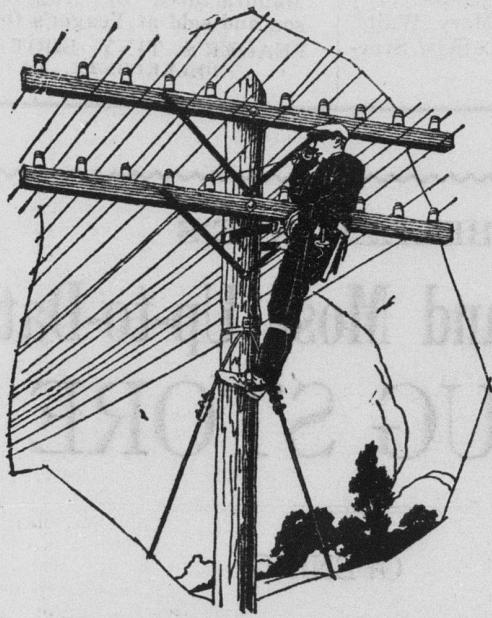
It may follow one of the great cable highways, or head off along some winding pole-line into the next county.

But, whichever it may be, your service is constantly patrolled, in trucks and cars and afoot, along four million miles of wire in Pennsylvania—to see that storm and sleet, wind and flood are out-manoeuvred—to see that the track is quickly cleared for *your* call when the elements get the upper hand.

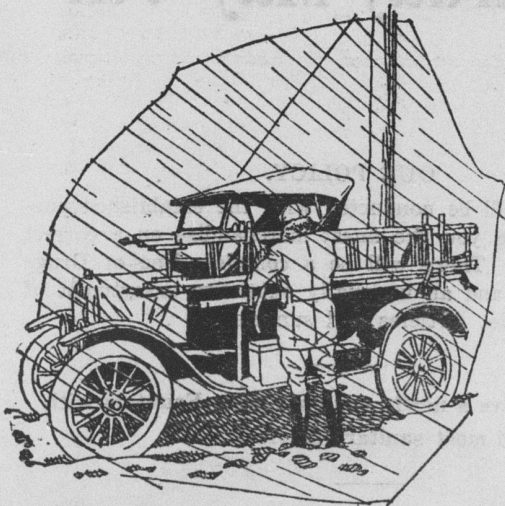
These men are serving you personally.

With them it's not just an eight-hour day, but a job in *your* interest.

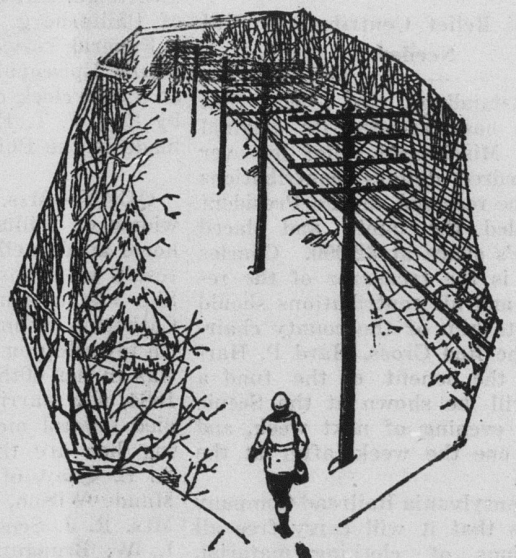
Not just that the traffic shall flow along normally, but that *your* call shall go through.



"To see that the track is quickly cleared for YOUR call"



The "telephone patrol" is a familiar sight on city street and country highway



"Your service is constantly patrolled . . . along four million miles of wire in Pennsylvania"



"Your call may hop underground . . . and the subterranean lines must be kept clear"

THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF PENNSYLVANIA

"AN ORGANIZATION DEVOTED



TO PERSONAL SERVICE"