

10,992,325 BELL PHONES IN U. S.

Earnings for 1918 Show Big Gain, Annual Report Shows

112,000 STOCKHOLDERS

People, However, Oppose Monopoly, Postal Telegraph Head Says

The Bell Telephone Company had in service in this country at the close of last year, 10,992,325 telephones.

Last year was from every standpoint, the most difficult in the entire history of the telephone, according to Theodore N. Vall, in making public yesterday the annual report of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for the year ending December 31.

The wire mileage owned by the Bell companies was 23,281,126 miles, 94 per cent copper, and 60 per cent aluminum.

Capital obligations of the Bell system outstanding in the hands of the public at the close of the year were \$51,974,254, of which the outstanding obligations of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company represent \$47,283,262.

Net earnings of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for the year were \$54,292,015, compared with \$48,940,466 in 1917.

The number of stockholders increased over 24,000 during 1918, and now exceeds 112,000, the majority being women.

In the contract with the government under which the Bell system is now operating, provision has been made for emergency compensation, efficient operation, maintenance, depreciation and unexpired balances in the plant, continuation of employees' pensions, disability and death benefits, and of contracts with the associated companies.

"There is little doubt," he says, "remaining in the minds of the public but that regulated monopoly is better than unregulated government ownership, and there is no longer any extensive conviction that there can be effective competition in the electric transmission of intelligence."

Changes in the existing laws concerning control and regulation, competition and combination are urged as necessary by Mr. Vall, who sets forth a few basic principles upon which such changes should be built.

The Germans hated the Americans," said Doctor Pratt, "but they treated the members of the relief commission as well as they knew how. They showed great respect and did everything for us that they could. Most of my work was done about the Liege district in Belgium and Laon in France."

Professor Pratt went to Belgium in September, 1916, at the invitation of Dr. Vernon Kellogg, one of Mr. Hoover's field directors. He left the occupied territory in January of the following year and arrived home April 29, a short time after the United States declared war.

In making public the names of those decorated the Belgian legation issued a statement from Minister De Carter that his government "had found great difficulty in giving adequate expression to the appreciation of the services rendered by the members of the commission, who seemed, from Mr. Hoover down, to assume that they had been fully rewarded by the personal gratification accruing from having carried out a big undertaking with signal success."

Other decorations included the Order of Leopold conferred on William B. Poland, of New York; William L. Hensold, New York; Vernon Kellogg, Stanford University; and Alexander Hensbold, New York, have been made commanders of the Order of Couronne.

Other decorations of officers of the order of Couronne have been awarded Oscar T. Crosby, formerly American Commissioner of Finance; Millard K. Saylor, Brussels; Albert N. Connett, New York; John Hoover White, New York; and Edgar Rickard, San Francisco.

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DEATH STIRS DELAWARE COUNTY TO REBUILD JAIL

Motorman Awaiting Trial for Manslaughter in Insanitary Cell Contracts Consumption, and New Structure for Short-Term and Untried Prisoners Will Be the Result

Delaware County will erect a new jail in Media to provide decent quarters for short-term prisoners and those awaiting trial.

The structure now in use is more than sixty years old and crowded to such an extent that each narrow cell houses three prisoners. Jail officials admit that the old structure is "inadequate and a disgrace to Delaware County," and that the "overcrowding is a menace to the health of inmates."

Last Friday, Edward S. Morgan, a motorman awaiting trial on a charge of manslaughter, died, and his attorney, Elgin B. West, of Chester, asserted that Morgan's death was due to conditions in the jail.

Morgan contracted the old-fashioned collapsing consumption," said the attorney, "and died four days later. He had been awaiting trial since last July. Conditions in the jail broke down his health and he died."

Mr. West asserts that no blame can be attached to the jailers, but like others who are officially and unofficially attached to the jail, he asserts that the institution is a "disgrace to the county."

Judge Isaac Johnson, president judge of the Common Pleas Court for Delaware County, lately corroborated the statements of Mr. West, but expressed the opinion that the days of the old jail are numbered.

"The death of Morgan was most unfortunate," said Judge Johnson, "but county officials are not responsible. Squeaking of the jail, I shall make no attempt to ever see conditions. It is splendidly kept, but old and inadequate. It lacks sanitary facilities and everything that is essential in a modern institution. It is overcrowded, and as the court business expands will become even more overcrowded. There is but one solution, and that is the building of a new jail. That will be done, for the County Commissioners are now selecting a site."

The death of Morgan, a tragic incident in the life of the old jail, stirred the citizens of Media and emphasized to the County Commissioners the necessity of eliminating the institution.

Today there are 240 prisoners in the jail and room for not more than half that number. The cells are of the old type, small and poorly ventilated. The lack of sanitary facilities necessitates what is known as the bucket system, and that system has been condemned by every penologist in the country.

"We do the best we can," said George W. Allen, the jailer, "but can't do the impossible. The jail is too small for the needs of the county and so old that nothing can be done with it. Confusion in the institution is just and it should be discontinued."

The renewed criticism against the old jail is due to the death of Morgan. He was a motorman in Chester, and last July was arrested in connection with the killing of a girl in that city. A car which he was operating killed the girl and Morgan was locked up on a charge of manslaughter. He was scheduled to be tried in September, but the epidemic of influenza caused the court to put over the case until December. A fresh outbreak of the malady in that month caused a second postponement, and Morgan, unable to obtain bail to the extent of \$2,000, remained in jail. He was two weeks ago suffering an attack of measles. He recovered from the measles and the break of the malady on his own recovery. He contracted tuberculosis, which the disease developed very rapidly, said his attorney when discussing the case today.

"Jailer Allen, notified me and I went to Media. When told that Morgan would die I asked Judge Johnson to release him, because I didn't want the poor fellow to die in jail, attempt to ever see conditions. It is splendidly kept, but old and inadequate. It lacks sanitary facilities and everything that is essential in a modern institution. It is overcrowded, and as the court business expands will become even more overcrowded. There is but one solution, and that is the building of a new jail. That will be done, for the County Commissioners are now selecting a site."

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M. E. CHURCHMEN GATHER IN JERSEY

Annual State Conference Will Begin in Ocean Grove Tomorrow

MANY PULPIT CHANGES Bishop Shepard, of Wichita, Will Address Assembled Delegates Tonight

Ocean Grove, March 11.—Preliminary to the opening of the eighty-third annual session of the New Jersey Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Paul's Church here tomorrow, Bishop William O. Shepard, of Wichita, Kan., who is to preside at the conference, tonight will address the clergy and laymen of conference on the subject, "The Christian Destiny of America."

Delegates to the conference began arriving in the camp-meeting city this morning. Organization will occupy the first session of the conference tomorrow afternoon. In the evening the annual memorial service will be conducted. The first business session will be Thursday morning.

Four clergymen of the conference are on active service with the American forces abroad, and their absence will necessitate a few pastoral changes, in addition to those that would be made ordinarily. The Rev. James William Marshall, of Ocean Grove, one of the district superintendents, is to retire from conference activity, and this also will cause some rearrangement.

Will Devote Himself to Grace Doctor Marshall will give up his activities as head of the New Brunswick district to devote his time and energies to his post as a view president of the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association. He expects to center his efforts on the reduction of the \$700,000 bond issue recently voted by the association to take care of its floating indebtedness. A complimentary dinner will be given for him in the Baller Memorial Church, Asbury Park, Wednesday evening, by the clergy of his district.

Several likely successors to Doctor Marshall have been mentioned, among them Dr. James D. Bills, of Red Bank; Dr. Alfred Wages, of Burlington; and Dr. J. B. Hapox, of Camden.

The Rev. Dr. Leon K. Williams, one-time pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Asbury Park, is said to be desirous of returning to the Philadelphia conference. He recently was succeeded by the Rev. Furman A. DeMaris, Doctor Williams gave up his pastorate to enter the Rev. Cross service as a captain. He is now in Norfolk, Va. The Rev. DeMaris, who was district superintendent of the Camden district, probably will be continued at Asbury Park.

The Rev. Alexander Corson, of Broadway Church, Camden, has been mentioned as his successor.

Simons Speech Interests Clergy Delegates who arrived this morning were much interested in newspaper articles telling of the reception accorded to the Rev. George A. Simons in Brooklyn Sunday night by returned soldiers, sailors and marines at his address on Boulevard, in which he was said to have assailed President Wilson. Police officials said they would send a copy of Doctor Simons' address to Washington to ascertain whether his utterances were regarded as seditious.

Doctor Simons is to give an address before the conference Thursday evening on "Tuscan, Bohemian and Reformation." He was superintendent of the Methodist mission in Boston fourteen years.

The Rev. John Handley, who is in France, serving as chaplain of the 112th Regiment, Heavy Field Artillery, is sought by the congregation of St. Luke's Church, Long Branch, as the pastor. Doctor Handley served St. Luke's from 1901 to 1906. The Rev. James Lord, of the Spring Lake Church, is said, will be assigned to Trinity Church, Millville.

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