IMPORTANT TELEPHONE CASE.

Consolidated Company and Slate Belt Co. Hooked Up, Again.

An action charging conspiracy between the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania and the Slate Belt Telphone Co. for the suppression of competition, was begun on the 16th inst. before the Attorney General at Harrisburg. The Slate Belt Telephone Company operates in the counties of Northampton and Monroe with headquarters at Nazareth. Since 1900 this company has had a traffic contract with the Consolidated Telephone Companies of Pennsylvania, formerly with headquarters at Allentown, and now forming a part of the system of the American Union Telephone Company, with headquarters at Harrisburg. Under the terms of this contract the Consolidated Telephone Companies of Pennsylvania carried the business of the Slate Belt Telephone Company beyond the territory operated by the latter, giving the Slate Belt subscribers long distance connection with all independent points in Pennsylvania and adjoining states. On May 25th last the Slate Belt entered into a secret agreement with the Bell company under the terms of which it contracted to deliver its long distance business to the latter corporation, thus becoming a Bell sub-licensee company and, to all intents and purposes, a part of the Bell system. The first intimation of this transaction was obtained when the Slate Belt Telephone Company served notice on the Consolidated Telephone Companies of Pennsylvania that on and after July 12, 1909, the contract existing between these two corporations would be terminated. Immediately upon receipt of this notice, a petition filed with the Attorney General of Pennsylvania by the Consolidated Telephone Companies, charging a violation of the anti-trust laws of the State of Pennsylvania in that the making of a connection beween the Slate Belt and the Bell tended to destroy competition to the injury of the public. The Attorney General's Department notified the Slate Belt Telephone Company to refrain from making disconnection with the system of the Consolidated Telephone Companies system and appointed a hearing for July 14th, 1909. At this hearing Deputy Attorney General Cunningham presided and it developed that, notwithstanding the notice served on the Slate Belt Telephone Company, the latter's connection with the Consolidated Telephone Companies had been cut; but the officers of the Slate Belt Telephone Company agreed to immediately restore connection, which was accordingly done, the line being restored to service and patrons and subscribers of Independent Telephone Companies in this region can still obtain telephonic communication to Northampton and Monroe counties as heretofore.

At the hearing Lyman D. Gilbert, chief counsel for the Consolidated Telephone Companies of Pennsylvania (American Union Telephone Company) appeared for the petitoner and briefs were ordered filed pending a final adjudication of this matter. The officers of the Consolidated Telephone Companies of Pennsylvania have expressed their intention of conserving the rights of the public to continued competition. The Slate Belt Telephone Company built up its business as an independent Telephone Company largely upon the advantages which it enjoyed in having an outlet through the Consolidated lines. As a result it built up a business very largely in excess of the business of the Bell Telephone Company in the territory in which it operates. It is this fact that led the Bell Telephone Company to offer favorable terms to induce the Slate Belt Telephone Company to tie up with the Bell lines. A copy of the contract between the Slate Belt Telephone Company and the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania was filed with the Attorney General and is made a part of the record.

Lawyers who have studied the case are agreed with Mr. Gilbert that a combination such as the Bell Company has attempted to effect with the Slate Belt Telephone Company is clearly a violation of the laws of the State of Pennsylvania. Mr. Gilbert in his arguments showed that if the alleged conspiracy were carried out, it would result in serious injury to the public. He argued that it would be certain to bring about a deterioration of the service, higher rates, and arbitrary methods such as prevailed before competition in the telephone business became an established fact. While the present proceeding is merely a preliminary investigation on the part of the Attorney General, it has already had its results in that it has forced the restoration and maintenance of competitive telephone service in the Northampton-Monroe district.

About Wedding Flowers.

At a recent wedding the chosen flowers were subjects of comment because the sentiment attached to the flowers used was not understood. All flowers, or at least almost all, have some sentimental significance. Flowers worn by the bride, carried by the bridesmaids and used decoratively throughout the house and church are nearly always selected because they represent some human quality, such as purity, goodness, health, true love, etc. The shower boquet is often made up of an assortment of flowers, and while shower bouquets are no longer regarded as up-to-date, when each flower really stands for something, they cannot fail to find favor. The marigold, bleeding heart, lady slipper and bouncing Bettie all found a place in a shower bouquet thrown by a little southern birdie recently.

Cultivate the Orchard.

"The young orchard should be cultivated," says State Zoologist Surface, "but not with grain or grass crops. Corn, potatoes, beans, or other vegetables, well-cultivated, are ideal for a young orchard. The ground should be stirred every two or three weeks until the middle of August. In going through the orchard with the harrow, care should be taken not injure, bruise, or 'bark' the trees. To avoid this the horses ought to be muzzled and the outside portions of traces and whiffletrees padded."

In going through some young orchards early in the season, for the purpose of demonstrating pruning, Prof. Surface found many cases of trees which had been seriously damaged through being grazed by whiffletrees, or struck or bitten by the horses. In going through the orchard rub off all unnecessary sprouts.

Shah Excommunicated.

The Mujtahids
Say duty bids
Each Moslem bold,
Or young or old,
Or near or far,
In Holy War
To smash the Shah
Of Persi-a.
Will he fight the Mujtahid saints, et al;
Will he run from this bull ecumenical;
Will the Shah play the role of Bluff King Hal
Or of Henry who went to Canossa?

This question hard,
Which here is starred,
Most speedily
Must answered be—
The Holy Men
Are asking when
The Monarch high
Will make reply—
Will he fight the Mujtahid saints et al;
Will he run from this bull ecumenical;
Will the Shah play the role of Bluff King Hal,
Or of Henry who went to Canossa?

—Brooklyn Eagle.

A Contrast.

Norwegians and Lapps, the tallest and the shortest peoples of the world, live side by side.

"A Little Bird Told Me."

The common saying, "A little bird told me," has its origin in the Bible. In Ecclesiastes x, 20, we read, "Curse not the king, no not in thy thought, for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

Red Hickory.

Well seasoned red hickory weighs 52.37 pounds to the cubic foot.

The Dahlia.

One of the tales told of the dahlia is that the flower ornamented the royal gardens of the Escurial at Madrid for several years before Spanish jealousy would allow it to be introduced into the other countries of Europe.

Zulu Endurance.

The rate at which Zulus can travel in an emergency is astonishing. Some will cover as many as fifty miles in six hours. Eight miles an hour is an ordinary pace.

A Turtle That Eats Grass.

The Xerobates agassizii, the grass eating turtle of the Mojave desert, is said to be the only one of the turtle species which lives by grazing like a horse or an ox. Xerobates digs a hole in the sand to escape the intense heat, is about ten inches in length when full grown and weighs from six to eight pounds.

The Churchyard Beetle.

In Sweden the churchyard beetle is regarded as a messenger of pestilence and death, and its appearance always excites violent alarm. A species closely allied is eaten by Egyptian women with a view to acquiring plumpness.

Seek Their Color.

Divers in the clear waters of the tropical seas find that fish of different colors when frightened do not all dart in the same direction, but that each different kind takes shelter in that portion of the submarine growth nearest in color to that of the fish.

The Earliest Fan.

Perhaps the earliest fan in history was mentioned in hieroglyphics deciphered by the Egyptologist, Lepsius. In his researches he found this sentence referring to Osiris, "In his hand he held a fan."

Crops of Tea.

There are three crops of tea. The first or spring crop is gathered about April 20, the second or summer crop about May 20 and the third or "even flower" crop about June 30. The bulk of the yield is moved to the seaports promptly after gathering, and export to the United States and other countries continues throughout the year.

Largest Tobacco Farm.

On the largest tobacco farm in the world, a 250,000 acre affair near Amsterdam, Ga., is grown about a third of all the Sumatra tobacco used for cigar wrappers in the United States.

SPECS AS A CURE FOR ANY CRIME

Dr. William M. Richards of New York Reforms You By Making You See Straight

THE NEWEST FAD IN REFORMS

He Has Put Glasses on Hundreds of Offenders with Good Results—Examines Eyes of Women in Night Court and Finds an Odd Case.

New York City.—Cain did not wear glasses. If he had he might not have killed Abel. A number of other catastrophes might have been averted by the timely application of a pair of spectacles. If you want to reform a criminal clap a pair of glasses on him, for the chances are that defective physical vision has impaired his moral views. Such is the theory of Dr. William M. Richards, and he hopes inside of a year to be able to back his theory with statistics.

In compiling his statistics and in the search for subjects Dr. Richards has visited the District Attorney's office, several police courts, the Elmira Reformatory, the Magdalen Home and various other institutions. At the Elmira Reformatory he found that most of the boys were suffering from abnormal vision, that in the majority of cases poor eyesight had led to truancy, truancy to bad companionship and that to crime.

At the Magadalen Home he fitted glasses to twenty inmates, and every one of these, he said, found work on getting out and kept it. One girl in particular had never been able to keep a job more than a few days. She was considered stupid and lazy. Since leaving the home two months ago wearing a pair of glasses she has been steadily employed by a firm of wholesalers and is still working there. At the time he examined her she was unable to make out the largest type on the test card at a distance of four feet.

Dr. Richards is now trying his scheme on some 200 second offenders, burglars, holdup men and grafters of various degrees, and he hopes that if they do not lose their glasses they will be desirable citizens by the time they emerge from seclusion. Most of the glasses are provided by the Shaarath Israel, which is much interested in the work.

Dr. Richards visited Magistrate Barlow in the night court and examined the eyes of some of the women prisoners. The result showed, he said, that many of the women brought in had something the matter with their eyesight, and it was entirely possible that if their vision were restored to the normal they themselves would be able to lead a normal life. As the prisoners were arraigned he scanned each closely. When Googoo Nellie, a woman from the East Side, with rather prominent eyes, came up the doctor could not restrain his enthusiasm.

"Look at her! Look at her!" he exclaimed delightedly. "She's as blind as a bat! She can't see a thing!"

Dr. Richards led the bewildered and somewhat fearful Nellie into the examination room.

"Do you like to read?" he asked her abruptly.

Googoo was nonplussed. Never before in all her long police experience had anything like this happened to her. Not knowing what fatal consequences might follow a reckless answer she muttered something inaudibly while her foot traced nervous circles on the floor.

"What kind of books do you read?" persisted the doctor; "history, biography, fiction—what?"

Nellie was in a quandary. Should she give the preference to biography or history? Fiction was out of the question. There was a disparaging curl to the doctor's lips as he said "fiction" that warned her to steer clear of it. But if she said historical or bio—bio—whatever it was, why, he might ask her what books she had read. She resolved to take a safe middle course and avoid the snare.

"I don't care much about readin'," she admitted finally, "an' I don't get time to read much outside of the newspapers," and then in a brilliant attempt to escape from the cross-examination she added: "Jennie out there reads more'n I do. She's a great reader, Jennie is. Why, you don't hardly ever see Jennie but what she's got a book under her arm."

The doctor refused the bait so craftily offered, however, and proceeded to a few simple tests which convinced him that Googoo's eyes were a prime factor in her waywardness.

"Now come around and see me," he said as he finished, "and you'll soon be able to read as well as Jennie and be able to get steady employment and keep off the street as well."

"Sure," said Nelle, slowly and without eagerness.

Several more were examined and promised to come and be saved from their eyes.

As for Googoo Nell, the policeman failed to make out a case against her and she was discharged.

Dog Runs Itself to Death.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—On Nescopeck Mountain the body of Henry Savidge's valuable foxhound, which had chased a fox for three days and then died of exhaustion, after killing the fox, has been found. Its baying was heard for three days, and then ceased. One paw rested upon the body of the fox.

"SEATLESS GOWN" TO SAVE

Empire Style Makes Wearers Cripples and Coquettes, Says Grand Master of Tailors.

Boston, Mass.—The tight-fitting Empire gown must go. That was the flat issued by Samuel Paull, of New York, grand master of the United Tailors' Association of America, in an address at the convention of men who try.

If Mr. Pauli has his way, most of the Parisian fashions will go, along with the Empire gown which he ridiculed unsparingly. The "Seatless gown" he said, would prove the salvation of womankind.

He declared the Empire gown made cripples and coquettes of women. In his respect, he said, it was a fair type of all the other Paris fashions which has furnished American women the unspeakable sheath gown and the equally ridiculous pantaloon dress.

"A fashionable woman, wearing an Empire gown, is bound to acquire a hoochee-koochee walk," he declared. "Women who are trying to excel their friends in style in order to make the Empire more effective, walk with straight knees. Some women have practiced this walk until they become experts at it.

"If a woman wants to sit down in an Empire gown she either must unbutton the buttons from the knees down and display the petticoat or she must get the help of three men to place her in a sitting posture. She is unable, with the tight-fitting Empire that hubs the hips so closely, to do it herself."

After scoring the sheath and the pantaloon gowns, Mr. Paull declared that it required "audacity and impudence to supply such styles to American women."

Then he praised the hipless gown, the gown that is trained loose over the hips, and then described the "seatless gown," as he called it.

"I would suggest," said he, "that we create another gown to be called the Seatless gown. This style is to be made in suits as well as princesses, with straight lines from the shoulders down, loose fitting, but at the same time neat and becoming. It would also be in every respect comfortable to wear and walk in, and I am confident that a style of this kind will appeal to the American women."

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

Portrait of the Only Man in America Who Hasn't Invented a Flying-Machine. P. S.—He Will Invent One Next Week.

RULES FOR HER LIVING.

Suing Capitalist, Rich Wife Says She Had to Pay Board.

Atlanta, Ga.—Charging that he presented to her a remarkable set of rules to govern their lives, the penalty for violation of any one of them being one hundred kisses, Mrs. Emma Neal Douglas sued her husband, E. Lee Douglas, a lawyer and capitalist, for divorce. She is the daughter of the late President Neal, of the Neal Band, and is worth over $200,000, while her husband's wealth is estimated to be $500,000.

Mrs. Douglas charges that her husband made her pay extra for having meals sent to her room when sick; that he quarrelled with her when she ate what he considered too many potatoes; that he objected to giving servants anything but bread; that she had to have his permission to have guests, and had to pay their expenses; that she had to pay board; that he refused to buy theatre tickets, but went when she bought them; that he always searched out with "miserly care" such little items as shoe shines, and that when she was sick and needed a heavier coat he refused to give her her own money with which to buy one.

When they went to hotels she says her husband refused to tip waiters and porters, and she had to perform this service. She alleges that her health has been completely broken down by this treatment.

WHY FRENCHMEN GO MAD.

Romance a Very Small Factor—Money Losses and Drink Lead.

Paris.—The authorities of the Department of the Seine have published statistics of the 4,000 insane persons who came under their care last year.

The column giving causes deals a blow at romance, as "the loss of a beloved person" occurs only seventeen times. Love is responsible for only three cases of insanity and remorse for one case.

Money losses and drink were the chief agents.

Long Hair Hides Brand.

London.—Marshall Hall, K. C., at the arsenal dinner of the Playgoers' Club at the Hotel Cecil, referred to an early statute under which actors found wandering were liable to be branded through the right ear, and said that that was the reason so many members of the theatrical profession still wore their hair long. They wanted to conceal that particular decoration.