

VALUE OF BELL PHONE SYSTEM RATE BUGBEAR

Service Commission Fails to
Commit Self on Certain
Appraisals.

MERGER DETAILS CITED

This is the third of a series of articles on the telephone situation in Indianapolis.

The difference in opinion between the public service commission of Indiana and the Indiana Bell Telephone Company as to the value of the telephone properties in Indiana formerly owned by the Central Union Telephone Company may be expected to form the interesting features of the telephone rate hearing when it comes up before the public service commission of Indiana, June 21.

The date of the hearing was tentatively set by the commission today.

The Indiana Bell Telephone Company, in a petition filed with the public service commission relative to the purchase of the Central Union's properties in the state, with the exception of certain property at Terre Haute, set forth that it proposed to pay for the physical assets of the Central Union \$17,450,700, plus the cost of all net additions since October 31, 1910, and to take the property subject to the lien of \$54,000,000 standing and secured by mortgage on part of the property, the total of the two items being \$18,000,000.

DOES NOT COMMIT

SELF ON \$18,000,000.

In approving the sale of the property of the Central Union Telephone Company to the Indiana Bell Telephone Company, however, the public service commission refrained from committing itself relative to that \$18,000,000, and stated that in approving the terms that had been agreed upon by the two telephone companies as representing for the purposes of this cause the fair and reasonable value of the property, the commission did not in any way bind itself to approve the method by which the consideration was calculated or agreed upon, or to recognize such consideration as the value of the property in any rate case.

any other proceeding affecting the public interest, nor should such consideration be binding upon the Indiana Bell Telephone Company in any subsequent proceedings before the commission in which the value of the property in question may become material.

In the opinion and order of the public service commission fixing rates for the Central Union Telephone Company at exchanges in Indiana, approved February 9, 1920, the following tentative estimates were placed upon the property of the Central Union Telephone Company in Indiana:

Indiana toll system, \$2,351,416; Alexandria, \$47,231; Bedford, \$157,688; Bloomington, \$218,829; Boggs, \$11,035; Brooklyn, \$15,385; Bunker Hill, \$20,423; Calver, \$40,086; Elwood, \$176,437; Fairland, \$7,434; French Lick, \$20,456; Gas City, \$34,415; Greenwood, \$45,318; Washington, \$208,622; Yorktown, \$20,215; Indianapolis, \$6,040,057; Anderson, \$438,194; Auburn, \$114,727; Clay City, \$319,194; Frankfort, \$197,703; Kendallville, \$120,772; Mishawaka, \$291,983; Muncie, \$604,234; Peru, \$311,907; Shelbyville, \$168,487; South Bend, \$1,506,420; Vincennes, \$253,041; New Castle, \$158,430; Granger, \$5,491; Louisville, \$16,860; Manila, \$4,423; New Carlisle, \$34,810; Osceola, \$15,540; Rome City, \$4,261; Cumberland, \$12,018; Smith Valley, \$7,459, making a total of \$15,778,412.

VALUE INQUIRY
NOT COMPLETED.

In this same opinion and order of the commission it was stated, under the heading of "finding of tentative values," that "by reason of the inability of the staff to make complete appraisals of all of the property of the company, thus affording more complete evidence, and the necessity of early hearings, several cities were prevented from making desired investigations as to values."

"The commission believes, therefore, that it is unwise in these cases finally to fix the value of petitioner's property."

"It will be understood, therefore, that in each of the cases now under consideration, the commission will fix tentative values, which will be used only for the purpose of the particular cases now before the commission."

"The tentative values used, although \$18,000,000 less than claimed by petitioner, are liberal."

"It was then given, in the report of the tentative estimates of the company's property value in the various cities and towns, as already set forth, and it was added that 'these values are not to be considered as permanently fixed.'"

The final finding of the fair value of these properties, it was explained, was continued for further and future consideration.

It further was explained that the valuations as to Granger, Louisville, Manila, New Carlisle, Osceola, Rome City, Cumberland and Smith Valley were estimated—

that there had been no appraisals by company or commission.

Aguilar to Take Family to Europe

VERA CRUZ, Mex., June 4.—Gen. Camilo Aguilar, son-in-law of the late Venustiano Carranza, has been granted permission to leave Mexico with his family and make his future home in Europe. It was reported from Mexico City today.

The Aguilar family is expected to sail from this port soon.

The newspaper El Tabano prints a bitter attack against Aguilar, calling him a plunderer of public money.

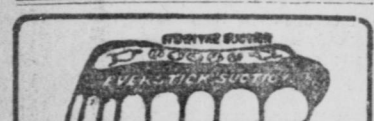
Lithuanians Repel Polish Invasion

LONDON, June 4.—Lithuania is moving to repel invasion by Poland, according to advice to the Daily Express today.

Lithuania lies at the northern end of the Russo-Polish battle line and a military movement north of Dvinsk, which is now held by the Poles, would endanger the neutrality of Lithuanian territory.

Hundreds of Birds Killed by Explosion

BLUEFIELD, W. Va., June 4.—Several hundred English sparrows, residing in the eaves of the Norfolk & Western pumping station, were killed when the steam pop valve let go. The birds were scalded to death. The pumping station was noted as a home for sparrows.



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DEPALMA'S JINX IN THE MOVIES

'Why Change Your Wife' Booked Next Week

It was an old "jinx" which caused Ralph DePalma to lose the 500-mile speedway race last Monday.

The movie man was present and snapped DePalma's tough luck, and the result of the camera man's efforts will be shown at the Circle next week, beginning Sunday.

Other high lights of the big race will be shown in the movie.

FEATURE BOOKED.

"Why Change Your Wife?" a movie dealing with the divorce evil, has been booked at English's for next week, opening Sunday.

This movie has caused considerable comment in this country in the manner in which the story has been handled.

A large cast is used in presenting the story.

ACTOR JOINS WALKER.

Stuart Walker has engaged Roswell Lowry, the 16-year-old son of Judith Lowry, to appear in the role of Bobby in the production of "The Miracle Man" at the Murat next week.

Mrs. Lowry says that her son, who has just graduated from high school in Galesburg, Ill., is still undecided as to whether he should adopt acting or civil engineering as a profession.

Lowry arrives in Indianapolis tomorrow to begin rehearsals in "The Miracle Man."

ON VIEW.

Today's lineup at the theaters is as follows: "Two Kisses" at the Murat, summer vaudeville at Keith's, the Rialto, and the Broadway; Pat White at the Park, Bill Hart in "The Toll Gate" at the Alhambra, Dorothy Dalton in "The Park Mirror" at the Isis, John Barry more in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" at

English's, Katherine MacDonald in "Fusion's Playground" at the Circle, Elaine Hammerstein in "The Shadow of Rosalie Byrnes" at the Colonial, Harry Carey in "Overland Red" at the Regent, "The Great Air Robbery" at Mr. Smith's and Home Feature in "Silk Husbands and Calico Wives" at the Ohio.

Persia Appeals to League Council

LONDON, June 4.—The council of the league of nations has been summoned to meet next week to hear Persia's appeal against the Russian bolshevik invasion. Sir Percival Phillips, the Daily Express correspondent at Constantinople, telegraphs that the Persian legation in that city has received an unconfirmed report that Russian bolshevik troops have entered Teheran, the Persian capital.

"ARABY" CAST IN BANQUET.

Shriners who aided in making the performance, "Araby," a success recently, celebrated their triumph last night with a banquet and after-dinner talks. Paul Richer, who handled the publicity for the show, was presented with a silver service.

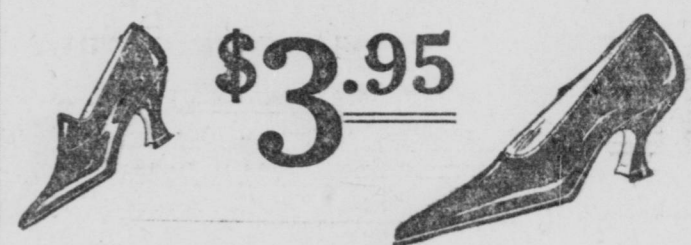
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