

**BELL TELEPHONE CO.
WITHDRAWS PETITION
FOR HIGHER RATES**

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., June 24.—Hearings on the petition of the Indiana Bell Telephone company to the public service commission for increased rates came to an abrupt end Wednesday afternoon when the petition was withdrawn on motion of the company.

The action affects 35 Indiana cities and towns. The action followed testimony of an expert employed by the service commission who accused officials of the telephone company of studied efforts to demoralize telephone service in recent months. Dismissal of the petition was the climax of a three-day hearing before the commission.

E. S. Wilson, a director of the Bell company and vice president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, made the motion for withdrawal, director of service for the commission, testified that exceptionally poor service is being given by the company in Indianapolis and in other exchanges of the state.

Mr. Wilson said that evidence introduced before the commission indicated a belief among patrons that the company is not doing all in its power to give satisfactory service.

Will Wait Three Months.

He declared that the company desired to withdraw the petition and make an effort to restore public confidence in the organization. He added that the matter of rates would be held in abeyance for at least ninety days to show the public the good faith of the company.

The collapse of the company's case was brought about by the testimony of Mr. Atwater. He was placed on the stand Tuesday evening and it is said that, following the session, officials of the company held an all-night conference in an attempt to outline a course of action which would save their case before the commission.

Testimony by Mr. Atwater continued this morning and his revelations concerning the service and policy of the company caused another hurried conference of the telephone men at noon. The motion to dismiss the petition followed soon after the afternoon session began.

DANIEL G. REID

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of 50 beds. The institution is always filled and for some time the trustees have realized that it was entirely too small to meet the demands made upon it. Lack of funds, however, has prevented the trustees from carrying out any plans for enlargement.

But if Richmond, whose population is steadily increasing and which has several thousand more residents now than at the time the hospital was built, is to have an institution which will meet its actual hospital requirements, immediate action must be taken, it is said, notwithstanding high building costs.

Plans Call for 150 Beds.

Tentative plans for the enlargement of Reid hospital call for its expansion to a 150 bed institution. It is proposed to build a wing to the hospital building and to modernize both its arrangement and equipment.

Under contemplated plans patients who were not surgical cases could be separated from the surgical cases. A maternity ward could be provided, also a much needed isolation ward to care for patients who contract contagious diseases while under treatment at the hospital.

It is believed that the Pennsylvania railroad company would be a liberal subscriber to the proposed building fund, as there are always a number of railroad cases under treatment.

Men and women who are interested in the welfare of Reid hospital do not anticipate any difficulty in raising a building fund for they believe Richmond people have an affectionate regard for the institution.

Five Minutes with Our Presidents

By JAMES MORGAN

XXXVI.—SOWING THE WIND



ABIGAIL FILLMORE

The politicians who chose Millard Fillmore to be Vice-President and the political heir of Zachary Taylor builded better than they knew. They had found "Old Rough and Ready" more rough than ready. In the amiable, faultless and respectable time-server who took his place they had a smooth and handy tool.

That was an ignominious era which opened with the accession of Tyler and closed with the inauguration of Lincoln. All through it, the politicians—yes, the people, too—were only preparing the great tragedy of 1861-5. They foolishly thought they were averting it . . . but no one ever escaped trouble by running away from it.

As soon as the politicians saw that the people were afraid of the slavery question they began to prey upon the popular fear. While the Southern politicians were frightening their constituents into the false belief that only by expanding the territory of slavery and increasing its political power—in their hands, of course—could slavery be saved, the Northern politicians spread in the North the equally fallacious idea that only by concessions, compromises and by keeping still on the subject of slavery could the Union be saved.

The obvious truth was that unless the North resisted at every step, slavery would increase and spread. It was equally true, on the other hand, that slavery in the South never was in danger, because even today the North has not the three-fourths vote necessary to amend the Constitution. The slave states held the veto power and the South still holds it.

With the Missouri Compromise in 1820, the slavery question was first made a football of politics. It was removed from the economic and moral realm where it belonged and where, as all enlightened Southerners originally believed, it would be eventually solved by a peaceful, gradual emancipation.

The pretended settlement in the Missouri Compromise only aggravated the problem. To stop the growing discus-

compromise "to save the Union" making Uncle Sam a slave catcher. Federal officials were authorized to command the people of the North to join in hounding down runaway negroes and to throw into prison any white man who harbored the hunted things.

Every enforcement of that Fugitive Slave act merely thrust before Northern eyes a moving picture of slavery in its most horrid aspect . . . with officers of the Federal government dragging a fellowman through the streets in irons, to banish him from liberty and deport him into bondage. As a logical consequence "the underground railroad" sprang into existence and organized and advertised better facilities than ever for the easy escape of slaves from the South into Canada.

When Clay and Webster sponsored and Fillmore signed that Fugitive Slave act, the Whig party played its last card in the slavery game. Northern business interests, the mainstay of the Whigs, were faithful allies of the Southern business in slaves. But after the Fugitive Slave act, those "cotton" Whigs of the North could no longer hold in check the "conscience" Whigs and the party was split wide open.

This meant that a new party would have to be started, and naturally it would be an antislavery party, unless the public mind could be drawn away

from the subject. That was easily done by raising a furious outcry against the foreigners. It is a familiar rule. Whenever any wrong among ourselves is in danger of exposure, the first thing that its votaries do is to attempt to change the subject by appealing to the primitive prejudice against strangers.

To distract the Northern people from the slavery question, the losing Whig politicians took up with the American or "Knownothing" party. Its passwords, its secret oaths and mummeries and its cowardly mobbings of the laborious, unoffending Irish provided a timely, though happily a brief, diversion from the real question. Fears of the slave power at home were all but lost in fears of the Pope at Rome for a few years.

In the midst of that mad distraction the Missouri Compromise was easily repealed by the politicians of both sec-

tions. This left the free soil of the virgin West wholly unprotected against slavery for the first time since 1787. The Supreme Court hastened to complete forever the work of destruction by declaring, in its Dred Scott decision, that neither Congress nor the States had power to keep slavery out of any part of the country.

From that judgment of the court of last resort there remained no appeal except to the sword. To that tragic pass the politicians in the White House, in Congress and on the bench—and the people as a whole—had brought the country at last. Politics utterly had failed to solve the problem and that failure made necessary, made unavoidable a violent solution of it.

The spineless Presidents of that glorious period were thoroughly representative of their generation, and they have conveniently served as scapegoats. But why blame Tyler and Polk,

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10 More 1920 Buick Cars

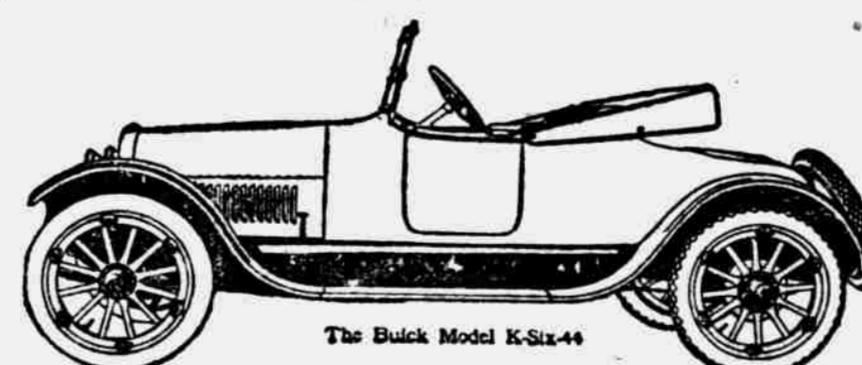
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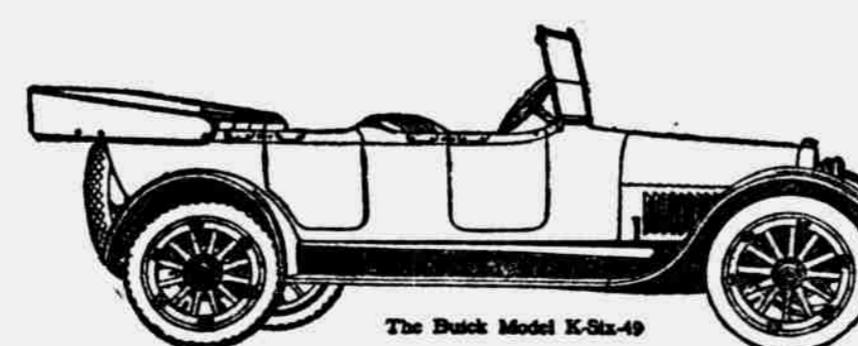
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Model K-45 - \$1595.00	Model K-47 - \$2465.00	Model K-50 - \$2295.00

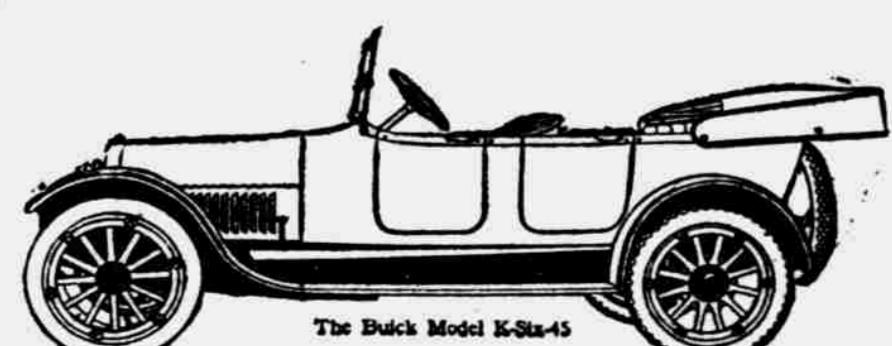
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