

ONE GREAT TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR STATE OF ILLINOIS FORMED

Illinois Bell Succeeds Former Chicago and Central Union Companies

New Year's Day ushered in a new state-wide telephone company for Illinois.

The new company is the Illinois Bell Telephone Company. It was formed through the purchase by the Chicago Telephone Company of the Illinois properties of the Central Union Telephone Company. The new company is officered by the same men, who for years have devoted themselves to the development and operation of the Bell telephone system in this state.

B. E. Sunny, for twelve years president of the Chicago Telephone Company, continues in that office. Edgar S. Bloom, for seven years at the head of the Central Union Company, was made a vice-president, and W. R. Abbott, for many years general manager of the Chicago company, was made a vice-president and remains general manager.

Changing the name from "Chicago Telephone" and "Central Union" to "Illinois Bell" meant the passing of two well-known names in Illinois telephone history. The new company is a large one. It has 810,000 telephones of its own, and its lines connect with those of 340 other state companies having 340,000 telephones, making a total of 1,150,000 telephones which can be reached by this system in Illinois alone.

It was estimated that the new company's system of toll lines connecting cities and towns, together with the local exchanges, requires about 2,300,000 miles of wire. The new company has upward of 20,000 men and women employees.

The book cost of the property of the new company is \$107,340,000. It was asserted that it would cost in excess of \$200,000,000 to replace this property. During 1921, the new work laid out by the new company calls for an expenditure of \$14,500,000.

The traffic department reported that it had won its long contest against the conditions prevailing for more than two years, which resulted in a lowering of the service standard. These conditions, it was said, were due to an insufficient force of operators, inexperienced operators, and many other causes. It was pointed out that most of these conditions have been removed, and that there is now a marked improvement in the service. The company's announcement contained a promise that the service is practically back to the pre-war standard.

Delay in installing telephones, also a result of war conditions, promises to be done away with, according to the company's claim, which said it was hoped that applications for service may now be cared for without delay.

Further development of the toll service throughout the state is one of the new company's chief aims. It was declared that improvements would be made which would strengthen telephone communication with the several hundred connecting companies, in the interest of a faster and better service for the whole state.

RAILROADS TO AID SAFETY CAMPAIGN ON STATE'S ROADS

Join With Secretary of State Emerson in Effort to Educate Drivers on Law.

ANXIOUS TO SAVE LIVES

Believe If Cars Slowed Down or Stopped at Crossings Accidents Would Be Avoided

In his campaign for greater safety on the public highways, Secretary of State Louis E. Emerson will have the support of the railroad companies. The railroad officials are very anxious to aid in preventing accidents at railroad crossings.

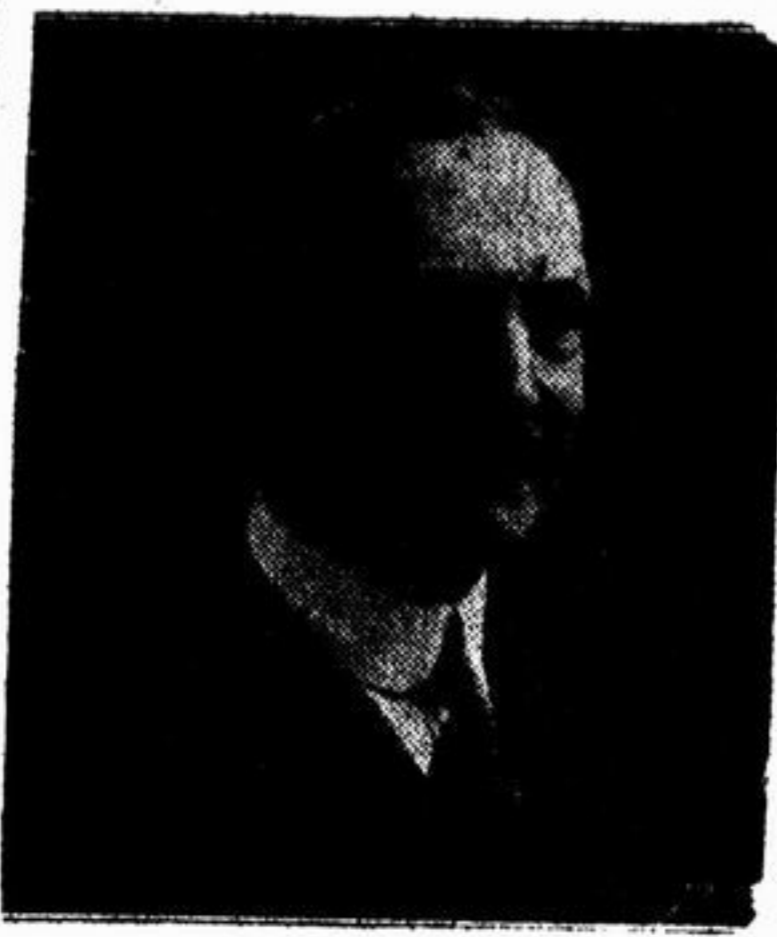
The Pennsylvania railroad's safety first division will cooperate with him, and work along this line has already been undertaken by the Baltimore & Ohio, with the assistance of the secretary's office.

Investigators employed by the Pennsylvania railroad will be stationed at certain grade crossings where there is a great deal of traffic. The license numbers of automobiles which are driven over these crossings in a reckless manner will be taken down and sent to the automobile department of Secretary Emerson's office. Clerks will look up the owners of these cars, and cards stating that their machines were driven over the crossings recklessly will be sent to them.

Has Proved Effective.

This plan has been tried out in other states, and has proved very effective in causing drivers of cars to exercise more care.

Under the law in Illinois, a driver must reduce his speed to not to exceed ten miles per hour upon approaching a railroad grade crossing, and he is required to bring his machine to a full stop before proceeding over any crossing at which there is a "stop" sign. The secretary of state has no police powers, and a co-operating with the railroad company he will merely notify the drivers who are reported as driving recklessly over the crossings, that they have violated the law and that such driving endangers their own lives.



REV. JOSEPH C. DENT, of Chicago, the Evangelist who will conduct the Special Services at the First Baptist Church here. The services start next Sunday morning for two weeks. More details will be found in an article on the first page.

Uncle John's Joke

WILLIE PRIMPLE ASKED THE PASTOR TOTHER DAY IF THE AX OF THE APOSTLES WAS USED TO KILL THE FATTED CALF.



RECORD PRICE REPORTED FOR GOOD COMEDIES

In these days of absurd claims figures really mean little, but it is a legally recognized fact that the Christie Comedy Company has agreed to spend approximately one million dollars in the production of twenty-six two-reel comedies within twelve months. This amount includes production cost alone and does not take into account advertising, distribution or any of the other charges.

Patrons of the Dicke Theatre will be able to judge how well the company is adhering to its agreement after they witness the first of this series, "Kiss Me, Caroline," which comes on New Year's Day. An evidence of the expense is the poster of stars, which includes Bobby Vernon, the featured player; Vern Stegman, Teddy Sampson, Charlotte Merriman, and Noel Burns. Then there are the Folies Girls and a host of minor players.

Lowliness of this production is another proof of the vast studies that the motion picture has taken forward and especially of the fact that the public demand the same excellence in its comedies as in the so-called feature pictures. With the bare exception of those of production the comedy of the Christie standard costs approximately as much as the feature since the range of salaries is equal, the story costs practically the same and the sets must be fully as lavish.

"Kiss Me, Caroline" is called a comedy of complications. It tells the result of one youth's pining as the bride of another in order to win parental forgiveness and of the troubles that come when the groom's sister and her college chum come on a visit and it is a straight farce, with laugh provoking situations said to come one after another.



KISS ME CAROLINE

With BOBBY VERNON AS THE BRIDE
And an all-star CHRISTIE COMEDY CAST

UNIQUE WATCH NIGHT SERVICE AT THE BAPTIST

"Young People's Hour" From 9 to 10 When They Will Tell of "The Voyagers."

The Rev. John Stewart, pastor of the First Baptist Church, is announcing a unique program for the "Watch Night" services this Friday evening. The service has been divided into three parts as follows:

- 9-10—Young People's Hour.
 - 10-11—Social Hour.
 - 11-12—Pastor's Hour.
- During their hour the young people will present "The Voyagers" in five brief addresses.
1. "The Ship of Safety."
 2. "The Cargo."
 3. "The Storms."
 4. "One Port in Sight."
 5. "Casting Anchor."
- There will be appropriate songs, and an evening of mirth is looked forward to. Everyone will be welcome.

PRINCESS THEATRE

"THE BAT" A Dramatic Triumph

The dramatic sensation of Chicago

is "The Bat," which opened in Chicago last Sunday night at the Princess Theatre. After its first performance "The Bat" was voted by both press and public to be the most absorbing and exciting mystery play ever produced in that city. Wagenhals and Kemper have provided a cast even more brilliant than the New York organization that has presented "The Bat" to capacity audiences at the Morosco Theatre in New York for six months. Chicago playgoers who have seen both companies declare that the Chicago cast is superior in every way to the New York organization. With "The Bat" as its attraction, the Princess Theatre once more takes rank with Chicago's leading and most popular theaters. Mary Roberts Rinehart and Avery Hopwood, the authors of this sensational mystery play, were present at the opening performance. The Chicago critics were unanimous in declaring that "The Bat" was their best work. Seats for the Chicago engagement of "The Bat" are now on sale at the Princess Theatre for eight weeks in advance. Matinees are given Wednesday and Saturday. An old time playgoer said in the lobby of the Princess Theatre last Sunday night, "The Bat" will be seen in Chicago for a year to come."

1921 Health and Prosperity 1921

LOOKING BACKWARD

Over the past months we see unusual conditions in daily life in business, chaos and uncertainty mingled with doubt and uncertainty, but through it all there has been feeling that at least some good must come out of the worst of things.

THE SPIRIT OF YULETIDE

1921 And good cheer is with us for a few days at least; why not carry it clear through the year 1921? Having wished all Downers Grove folks a Merry Christmas we are hoping the oncoming year will be one of health and prosperity for everyone.

LOOKING FORWARD

To what the future has in store, we still see the bright star of hope shining forth; optimism abroad in the land and faith in all minds that all is well in the world and that there will be an early return to conditions normal and satisfactory.

Potter Mfg. & Lumber Co.

OLD BEN FRANKLIN COUNTY COAL MUST BE GOOD COAL SO MANY PEOPLE USE IT

Phone One Five

The Downers Grove Fruit Store

Wish to announce that they are again open for business and will run a good, clean store with lots of bargains.

Just received a load of fresh fruit & vegetables

- Filberts, per pound 18c
- Candy, per pound 34c
- Oranges, doz. 25c to 70c

STEVE AND KLICKAS CO.

CURTISS THEATRE BUILDING

Curtiss Theatre

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ELMER UHLHORN

Saturday, January 1st

MATINEE AT 3:00

EVENING 7:30 & 9:15



Geraldine FARRAR

"The Riddle: Woman"

"The Riddle: Woman" is an impassioned drama of the mysteries of a woman's soul; the distressing and delightful uncertainties of a woman's heart. It convincingly discloses the different actions of three women under the alluring love spell of an attractive yet ruthless male. Thus a triple battle of the sexes proves that the love of woman "is a lovely and a fearful thing." Embellished with the supreme technique of a new art, the great stage sensation of the same name provides the motif for a superb masterpiece of the silent drama.

ALSO

2-Reel Century Comedy

Sunday, January, 2d

MATINEE AT 3:00

EVENING 7:30 & 9:15

CHARLES RAY

in

"The Village Sleuth"

There was dirty work afoot! Go-h! even folks that wasn't detectives knew that. For why them tracks to the lonely lake? And a rich man, vanished? And funny goin' on in that smart doctor's home for Nervous Women? And a fortune in jewels stolen? And the mystery house in the woods? And all them jealous, accusin' eyes on a sweet and beautiful actress lady who never, never done wrong? But Nicholas Carter Wells had a clue, and —sh-h-h-h! Come and see Sherlock Holmes' ghost turn green with envy. Five rouling reels of laughs and excitement.

ALSO

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MUTT AND JEFF ANIMATED CARTOON

TUESDAY and January 4th

WEDNESDAY January 5th



"THE RIGHT TO LOVE"

FEATURING

Mae Murray and David Powell

Beauty! Passion! Splendor! And the soul of a radiant woman flaming into love. A Turkish tale of a young American girl—Sold to a knave—Forced to share even her home with the "other woman"—Delivered up to a man's insults—Torn from the arms of her child—Rising at last, rebellious, to the right of her sex to claim her mate. All the lux of the City of the Sultans in a romance rich as an Ottoman tapestry.

Now, nothing with struggle, mystery, intrigue. Now under the spell of midnight eyes and summer moonlight shining on the Golden Horn.

ALSO — BOTH NIGHTS—INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Evening—Both Days—7:30-9:15. Admission 15 & 20 seats inc. War Tax

COMING!

HOBART BOSWORTH in "A THOUSAND TO ONE"

DOROTHY GISH in "LITTLE MISS REBELLION"

FATTY ARBUCKLE in "THE BOUND UP"