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U. S. PREDOMINATES IN TELEPHONE USE

Has About Three Times as Many as Rest of World, According to Report

The United States had more telephones in 1905 than any other country in the world has today and today the United States, with 18,000,000 telephones, has more than 3 1/2 times as many telephones as Germany, Great Britain, France, Belgium and Denmark combined.

Comparative figures which show the growth of the telephone industry here and abroad since 1895 have been compiled recently. In 1895 this country's lead over other nations was not so great as the present time, but development under private ownership and initiative has made progress here much more rapid than in countries where government ownership has been the rule.

There were 285,400 telephones in the United States in 1895. In 1915 there were 10,046,000 and today the number of telephones in use exceeds 18,000,000.

Germany nearest approaches America's rate of growth, the number of telephones increasing from 115,007 in 1895 to 2,588,000 in 1926. Great Britain advanced from 73,333 to 1,380,000 telephones in the same time.

France has lagged. In 1895 she had 30,962 and today she has only 737,000 telephones—less than the number in Chicago. Belgium, also badly hurt by the war, increased from 8,667 in 1895 to 159,000 in 1926.

For a small country Denmark has done well, advancing from 10,325 telephones in 1895 to 316,000 in 1926.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP INCREASES LIVING COST

Cities In Which This "Luxury" Prevails Are Most Expensive Is Report

A report just issued by the National Industrial Conference board states that San Francisco, Cleveland, Jacksonville (Fla.), Detroit and Seattle are the most expensive cities in the country in which to try to live at this time. In the survey just completed the index number or United States average was given as 100. The cost of living in San Francisco was found to be 112.9; Cleveland, 113.4; Jacksonville, 115.6; Detroit, 118.1; and Seattle, 123.8. Of course taxes must always figure as a leading item in the expense of living.

If so happens, the Conference board indicates, that the five cities topping the list "enjoy" the luxury of municipal ownership, the greatest argument of which always is that it reduces the cost of living.

San Francisco owns a street railway system and the famous Hetch-Hetchy water power development; Cleveland owns a "successful" municipal lighting plant, according to municipal ownership advocates. So also does Jacksonville. Detroit and Seattle were both stampeded into purchasing and operating their street railway system by the arguments and promises of the visionary advocates that both fares and taxes would be lowered. In each case fares actually have been increased and so have the taxes.

In the thirteen large cities where the cost of living is less than the average there is no municipal ownership of electric, gas, street railway or telephone businesses.

ORANGE GROWING NO BUSINESS FOR PIKER

Takes Real Money to Operate Large Grove, as Overhead Is Very High

Orange growing is no business for the poor man who dreams of living an easy life after paying the first cost of a grove, O. W. Maulsby, California citrus fruit grower, warns in Farm and Fireside.

"The market price of suitable orange land and water," Maulsby says, "is from \$800 to \$1,500 an acre not planted and from \$1,200 to \$3,000 an acre if in bearing orchard. Then it costs \$190 an acre to establish an orchard; \$60 an acre to carry it to bearing age and from \$175 to \$300 an acre to maintain it. Cultivating labor alone amounts to more than \$50 an acre to maintain it. Cultivating items include fertilizer, irrigation, fumigating materials, cost of picking, hauling, packing and marketing.

"Altogether it costs around \$235 on an average to produce a crop from one acre. With the best fortune a gross return of \$570 will be received, but the original investment, the current expenses and the hard work involved are sufficient to dissipate the hopes of day dreamers who think that once established, an orchard makes money of itself and affords a life of drowsy ease for the owner.

"Orange growing is not a poor business. It is a good business for the man who has the energy and capital to make it go. But it is a business and not an amusement."

Five passengers are said to have eaten their dinner in comfort in an airplane flying over Paris the other day. These air diners are going to require new regulations. Where for instance will we throw the melon rinds and the gingerale bottles?

It is stated that there are no communists in Liberia. It is all to the credit of the blacks that the blacks and the reds do not mix.

Classified Directory

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