

### HISTORY OF PHONE COMPANIES IN N. Y.

FIRST ORGANIZED IN 1877

Lasted About Ten Months, But Others Followed as Early Pioneers Went Ahead With Efforts

The first telephone company in New York City was organized by Charles A. Cheever and Hilborne L. Roosevelt on August 31, 1877, and was called the Telephone Company of New York. In the articles of agreement it was specified that the association should commence on the 31st day of August, 1877, and terminate on the 31st day of August, 1927. However, the company which set out for fifty years, died within ten months.

**Second Company**  
When this first telephone company failed, it was followed, in 1878, by the organization of the Bell Company of New York, with Edwin Holmes as its first president. A determined effort was then made to have New York take the telephone seriously, but most people refused to consider it, even with the inducement of one month's trial free. A striking example was the A. T. Stewart department store, which is now the John Wanamaker store. This store finally gave permission to have a telephone put in the store, but it was specified that it was to be placed there as an advertisement and nothing was to be paid for it.

**Pioneers Persisted**  
However, the early pioneers went ahead in their efforts to introduce the new invention, and with the establishment of a central office at 518 Broadway, the headquarters of the Holmes Burglar Alarm company, a number of subscribers were obtained, with the result that not long afterwards, New York's first telephone directory appeared. This first directory consisted of a single page card and showed the names of 252 subscribers.

In August, 1879, the first bound book of the Bell Telephone company in New York was published. This contained 47 pages and listed 800 names. By 1888, the number of subscribers had grown to 4,000, by 1886 to 9,000, and at the beginning of the present century there were almost 50,000 telephones in use in New York, serving at that time a population of 3,500,000 people. In other words, in 1900, New York City had only about as many telephones as there are today in either of the cities of Houston, Tex., or Toledo, O.

**Situation Today**  
Greater New York today, however, has a telephone system that serves 1,580,000 telephones in five boroughs, more telephones, in fact, than there are in the whole of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and that area includes London, the largest city in the world.

### CURWOOD'S LAST WORK PLEA FOR WILD LIFE

Says Destruction of Wild Creatures by Man No Longer Necessary

James Oliver Curwood's final plea for the protection of the wild life, scoring man for his lust for the blood of living things, is only now reaching the public, several months after the great conversationist's death.

Accompanying the article entitled "Thou Shalt Not Kill," the American Magazine states that Curwood, while preparing it, said he believed it would be the finest thing he had ever written. His death came, however, before the manuscript had been put into type.

In his last article Curwood praised the conversation movement in Michigan and expressed the belief that the wanton slaughter of game and fish will be much curtailed in the coming generation, not by laws, but by the dying out of man's desire to kill.

"In so far as we can look back through the few years of our known past," as wrote Curwood, "man has fought and killed to attain his present position on earth. He killed to feed and protect himself until the running of red blood gave him the greatest thrill and pleasure. Wars and inter-necine strife were not sufficient to quench his thirst during his early history. The blood-lust called for the sacrifices of girls and young men chosen from the families of his neighbors. When he 'got religion' he wanted to kill off people of other religions. In the name of God he slaughtered his way through two thousand years. Then came the so-called civilization of today. When man could no longer kill his enemies indiscriminately he began to seek other outlets, and hunting ceased to be a labor devoted to the quest for food and became a sport.

"The destruction of wild creatures by man has ceased to be a necessity. Other fields to conquer are offered to him. The old fashioned hunters and killers are being thrust into the background by vibrant youth, which is wiser than its fathers ever were and which has done more to blacken the good right eye of egoism during the past ten years than any other influence humanity has ever known."

### SOUTHERN ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL HISTORY

HOW COAL BEDS FORMED

Interesting and Readable Outline of Making of Portion of State Told by Noted Scientist

A story that began hundreds of millions of years ago, when one of the Paleozoic seas covered Illinois and neighboring states, is told in a current publication of the State Geographical Survey now being distributed to high schools and colleges for use in courses in geography and geology.

"The Story of the Geologic Making of Southern Illinois," by the late Dr. Stuart Weller, professor of geology at the University of Chicago, who was an active member of the Illinois State Geological Survey from its organization in 1905 until his death this year, is now published as the first of the survey's series of educational handbooks.

**Traces Rock Formation**  
Professor Weller's account traces the formation of the rock foundations of southern Illinois from the more remote periods of the earth's history down to recent times, with special attention to the coal beds and fluorspar deposits which make "Little Egypt" one of the world's richest mineral regions.

After the land was uplifted from the sea that had covered it for an inconceivably long period, according to this account, vast swamps were formed in a low-lying, saucer-shaped basin, 300 miles wide, stretching over southern Illinois, southwestern Indiana, and western Kentucky. In these swamps there grew extensive forests of fern-like trees with dense undergrowths of giant mosses and other primitive plants.

When the sea again spread over this region, the forests were buried under layers of sand, mud, and lime-mud. The peat beds where the forests had stood were compressed and preserved by the materials that covered them, and the process of coal making was begun.

**Several Coal Beds**  
The fact that there are several beds of coal, one above another, with intervening layers of shale, limestone, and sandstone, shows that these events were repeated again and again through a long period of time. Whenever the sea withdrew, new forests grew in the swamps, only to be buried again when the sea returned.

The great weight and pressure of the accumulated layers gradually changed the peat into coal.

Fossils found in the coal when it is mined show the kind of vegetation

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that flourished in those ancient forests.

Professor Weller's work also explains the origin of the fluorspar deposits in Hardin county, pictures the kind of animals that lived in Illinois many millions of years ago, and describes the changing conditions down to recent times.

### U. S. TO GET CONTROL PIKE'S PEAK HIGHWAY

Offer of Company Controlling It To Turn Over To Government In 1935

"A piece of news of interest to motorists is that Pike's Peak highway is to belong to United States in 1935," says Charles M. Hayes, president of the Chicago Motor club. "Secretary of Agriculture, William Jardine, made this possible by accepting the offer of the Pike's Peak Auto Highway company, to convey to the United States its present highway to the summit of the famous mountain, together with 500 acres of privately owned land and all structures appurtenant to the operation of the road. The company reserved the right of use, without competition and at prevailing toll rates, until the close of the season of 1935.

"This offer was accepted in preference to a proposal to construct a second toll road to the summit of the Peak, on the opposite side of the mountain, with the understanding that at the end of six years the new road would become public property without cost," continued Mr. Hayes.

"In reaching his decision, Secretary Jardine expressed the belief that a single road to the Peak would be sufficient to accommodate the public; that a second road would cause needless disturbance of natural conditions, and involve heavy expenditures for which no economic justification existed; that the division of probable business between two competing roads might make it impossible to maintain or operate either according to proper standards," concluded Mr. Hayes.

### DATES OF LECTURES BY MISS F. KOEKER

The attention of the women of Highland Park is again called to the lectures of Miss Freeda Koeker of the Biblical Seminary of New York. A complete list of Miss Koeker's lectures while she is in this community is given so that everyone can arrange to hear her at some time. They are as follows:

- Thursday, Dec. 8—Y. W. C. A., 8:30 p. m. Friendship club.
- Friday, Dec. 9—Y. W. C. A., 10:30 a. m.
- Sunday, Dec. 13—Presbyterian church, 7:00 p. m.
- Monday, Dec. 12—Young People's society, 2:30 p. m. Presbyterian Missionary society. Home of Mrs. Beatty, 260 Ravine drive.
- Tuesday, Dec. 13—Y. W. C. A. board, 10 a. m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 13—Y. W. C. A., B. Y.'s club, 8 p. m.

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