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"URBS RECONDITA."

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HISTORY  
OF  
CHICAGO.

FROM THE  
EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOLUME III.—FROM THE FIRE OF 1871 UNTIL 1885.

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BY A. T. ANDREAS.

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quite a large fortune. In 1863, Mr. Wood sold out his business, deposited the bulk of his means with Ward Bros.' bank in Rochester, and went to Iowa to invest in lands. On the eve of purchasing, and after making a \$1,000 deposit on some real-estate, a telegram from his brother in the East informed him that he was a pauper, the bank at Rochester having failed totally. He immediately came to Chicago, and, undaunted by his financial losses, went to work for the Western Union, entering a service which has lasted twenty-three years, during which time he has never missed a day's work. He was first put on line work, and in 1881 was made agent of the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, as inspector in charge of lines and all work from the inception of the enterprise, being the first agent appointed who devoted his time exclusively to the office of the company. Mr. Wood is regarded as a man of high personal integrity and business ability. He was married in Wyoming County, N. Y., in 1861, his wife dying in 1871. He was married again, in 1874, to Miss Annie E. Thoreson, of Racine, Wis.

**TELEPHONE.**—In April, 1881, the Chicago Telephone Company bought out the Bell Telephone Company of Illinois and the American District Telegraph Company, and consolidated the Bell and Edison systems in one. The business was started in July or August, 1878, by the Bell Telephone Company of Boston, Mass., of which H. H. Eldred was the agent. About the same date, the American District Telegraph Company began to put out telephones under the Edison patents. General Anson Stager was president and L. B. Firman the general manager of this company. On January, 1879, the Bell Telephone Company of Illinois was organized to buy the business created by the Boston company.

The first president of the Chicago Telephone Company was General Anson Stager, the first vice-president Norman Williams, and the general manager C. N. Fay. At the present time, April, 1886, there are about five thousand telephones in operation on exchange lines; private lines and municipal lines. The Bell, Edison, Blake and Berliner patents are used. The president, General Anson Stager, died in 1885, and the officers for 1886 were Norman Williams, first vice-president; C. N. Fay, second vice-president and general manager; and R. C. Wetmore, treasurer.

**THE INTER-STATE TELEPHONE COMPANY** was organized in Chicago in 1883, by Charles Whitlock, under the patent of George M. Hopkins, of Brooklyn, N. Y. Messrs. Blake, Edison, Bell and others, have invented and perfected instruments which have, to some extent, been commercially successful, but the full measure of public expectancy has been fully realized by Mr. Hopkins's invention, as it is a loud speaker and is capable of transmitting speech over as great distances as the telegraph instrument. The Bell patent describes an apparatus, the object of which is the transmission, simultaneously, of two or more musical notes or telegraphic signals, along a single wire, in either or both directions, with a single main battery for the whole circuit, by means of an undulatory current of electricity, in contradistinction to an intermittent or pulsatory current. This theory has been exploded by Mr. Hopkins's patent, which conclusively proves that articulate speech can be transmitted by intermittent and pulsatory currents, and that clearer and better enunciation can be obtained without the serious annoyances of induction. The Hopkins instrument is vastly superior to all others now in use, and the practical demonstration of its effectiveness has done away with all controversy. Its simplicity of construction, superior advantages in being adapted to long or short distances, small number of calls to overcome induction, sensitiveness, extreme cheapness, perfection in switching and general effectiveness, place the Inter-State Telephone Company beyond all rivals, and makes it one of the best systems in the world.

**CHARLES WHITLOCK**, general manager of the Inter-State Telephone Company, son of Zalmon and Sarah G. Whitlock, was born at Plymouth, Conn., on September 12, 1826. He received a liberal education in the schools of his birthplace and remained at home assisting his father in the manufacture of agricultural implements and machinery until he reached his majority. He then engaged in the same line of business on his own account at Purdy Station, which he continued four years, and went into the real-estate business in Brooklyn, N. Y., with which he combined building, buying and selling, etc., where he remained until the War began. During the Rebellion he was in the Government service, and, at the cessation of hostilities, returned to Brooklyn and resumed business. Since 1880, he has been interested in electrical inventions, devoting much of his time to the telephone. In April, 1883, he came to this city in the interest of the celebrated Hopkins telephone patent, and has since been engaged in the development and organization of the company of which he is now manager. The innovation which Mr. Whitlock has been instrumental in placing before the public is another step forward and beyond any electrical invention yet produced, and it is undoubtedly destined to prove of greater benefit to the world than the telegraph. Mr. Whitlock was married on May 18, 1850, to Miss Emma Osborn of New York. They have three children,—Albert E., Belle and Charles, Jr.

**FRANK GODINE MOSS**, secretary of the Inter-State Telephone Company, was born at New York City on March 14, 1841. He passed through the public schools of his birthplace, afterward finishing by a collegiate course. He then engaged in the hardware business, subsequently entering the employ of Carter, Quinan & DeForest, dry goods, with whom he remained three years. At the end of that time he went on Wall Street, but in the following year (1862) came to this city and engaged with Hart, Aston & Co., bag manufacturers, which firm afterward became Hart, Bradley & Co., with whom he continued twenty-four years. His connection with that firm was at first in the capacity of assistant bookkeeper, from which position he was advanced to the responsible duties of cashier. In 1885, he became secretary of the Inter-State Telephone Company, and since has been identified with its interests. He is well known in financial and business circles, is regarded as a thoroughly reliable business man in every respect, and is especially fitted for his present position. Mr. Moss was married on May 12, 1868, to Miss Laura Hazelett, daughter of Robert M. Hazelett, of Philadelphia; she has since deceased, leaving him a son, Frank H. His marriage to Miss Cora F., a daughter of Marvin C. Sherman, one of the old outside settlers of Chicago, occurred on June 14, 1871. They have four children,—Emma B., Marvin S., Grace D. and May Belle J.

**ELECTRIC LIGHTS.**—Since the application of electricity for illuminating purposes and the successful operation of the electric light, many companies have been formed in Chicago to introduce the electric lighting system under various patents. The first electric lights introduced were of the Edison patent, and were put in use in 1880, by Willoughby, Hill & Co., Potter Palmer and John B. Drake; in 1881, by J. A. Hamlin; and since that time all of the principal hotels, theaters and public institutions have adopted electric lights. The County Court House and City Hall were fitted up with electric light plants in 1885.

One of the first local companies to apply for a charter and permission to extend their wires through the city was the Brush Light Company, using the Brush patents. The entrance of electric light companies was opposed by the old gas light companies, and it was charged that the electric light wires were dangerous to human life, and were, besides, a fruitful source of fires. The Council finally granted the Brush Light Company, the chief promoters of which were Jesse Spalding and Robert Law, the right to suspend their wires from buildings. This privilege was afterward withdrawn, and the company directed to place its wires underground. About this time the Western Edison Electric Light Company applied to the Council and received a charter to introduce its system. Charges of bribery in connection with the action of the Council in reference to electric light and telegraph franchises were made by the press, and much ill-feeling between rival companies was created. The Brush Light Company has not been able up to date