

9.6, and in New York 1.5. Even to the superficial observer it is very obvious that the actual need of telephones in a city like New York, with its enormous amount of trade and business, far exceeds the need in a city many times smaller in size, and with less developed facilities for mercantile pursuits. The fact that the latter city has a system so much larger is at once a proof that there must be some cause of great interest. And there is.

Since 1883 the Swedish government has owned part of the telephone systems of the country. Having operated its system so long, to great satisfaction, and with reasonable gain, it is easily understood that it is no wanton experiment. There were originally a number of local companies operating in the various cities of the country, but from time to time the government has acquired these systems, the payment usually having been determined by the reproduction cost of the plants and wires. However, the government did not in any way interfere with the local companies in the way of coercion. But it has done so in some places by means of competition. The influence of the state-owned telephone was not widely apprehended until the opening of the government's telephone lines between the larger cities, in establishing long-distance telephone service. The first line of great importance for length was between Stockholm and Gothenburg, about 350 miles. This line was opened in 1889, and since that time the system has so increased that the length of the lines combined was 70,000 miles in the year 1900.

The total length of all telephone lines in the country was in the same year 100,000 miles, and the proportion of the extent of the government's system and the private corporations is thus easily seen.

The cause for this enormous extent of the service is the price charged for the accommodation. For the unlimited use of a telephone, the price is \$13.50 a year, in which case the subscriber has the right to speak to all subscribers within a radius of about forty miles. For long-distance communications there is an additional fee, 4 cents for 70 miles, 8 cents for 160 miles, 13 cents for 400 miles, 20 cents for 600 miles, and for distances beyond 600 miles 27 cents.

What is now the financial result of this cheap service?

The gross income for a certain period amounted to \$5,400,000, while the operation cost for the same period amounted to \$2,650,000, besides interests amounting to \$430,000, leaving a pure profit of \$2,320,000. This surplus has been expended mostly for increase of the system, and the service is so satisfactory that foreigners when visiting the country have expressed their surprise that so perfect a service can be rendered for so slight a cost.

Of course, there is still in existence in Stockholm a private company, having a very extensive business in the city and its surroundings; but the competition with the government has brought this company to reasonable terms and the service is equally excellent and cheap.

For comparison it may be mentioned that the price for a telephone in 1880 varied from \$43 to \$75; in 1883, when the government went into the business, the price went down to a uniform rate of \$35, and has since then gradually gone down to its present figure.

It is true that labor is cheaper in Sweden, but the difference is not great enough to account for the difference in price for the accommodation of a telephone in Sweden and in the United States. If the Swedish government, charging so comparatively low rates, still can bring down the operation expense to less than half the gross income, it is pretty sure that large American municipalities could with profit to both its own finances and its citizens' comfort go into the telephone business in earnest. The Greater New York is nearly as large in population as Sweden. Its demand and necessity for telephones are very much greater. Telephones have become a necessity of life in large business centers. Necessities of this kind, monopolies involving such a taxing power, should not be left in the hands of private interests any longer, when the experience of other nations so plainly points out the practicability of government ownership of telephones.

ERIK OBERG.

RICHARD F. GEORGE.

How a Son of the Late Henry George Discovered His True Vocation.

From Success for January, 1906.

In the sculpture of Richard George, one is struck by the life quality. After a few moments of scrutiny the sense of the material is lost; the marble or bronze seems to have turned to living flesh, with lips parting to speak. I asked Mr. George what school had given him this vitalizing power. He replied that his only school had been the rough world, and that, fortunately or unfortunately, he had no academic training whatever.

Mr. George struggled with a diversity of pursuits before he reached his true vocation. After his school days in Brooklyn he was successively amanuensis to his father, the late Henry George; clerk in a law office; employe of a street railway; and business manager of his father's weekly newspaper. He married at twenty-three years of age, and at twenty-six moved with his little family to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where he took a position as draughtsman in a steel-rail plant. Here, owing to his acquaintance with the heads of the concern, many of his associates regarded him with such jealousy and suspicion that after three years' work he resigned. He then purchased a half interest in a photographic gallery, and, incongruously enough, in a coal mine. These he lost in the panic of 1893.

"My needs were pressing," he told me, "and prospects of work were slender. Swallowing my pride, I went again to the steel company in search of work. I saw the president. He referred me to the foreman, who, on account of the dull season, turned me down. I finally applied to the general manager.

"I am very sorry, Mr. George," he said, "but we are dropping men instead of taking them on. I can offer you nothing but a job as laborer."

"The words stunned me. But my needs were too great to refuse. I informed the manager that I would think the matter over, and then went home and told my wife of my glittering prospects.

"There is nothing demeaning in physical labor," she said; "have not many of our great men been laborers?"

"Talk like that gives me courage for anything,"

I answered, and the next day I went to work. I was subjected to the gibes the green hand suffers, my self-esteem was constantly ruffled, my work was exhausting, and my future seemed dark. It was not a period of joy for me, and yet it taught me valuable lessons.

"Finally, a better opportunity came to me from a friend engaged in the manufacture of architectural terra cotta in Philadelphia. On the day I reported for duty as a draughtsman he conducted me through the plant. In the modeling room, as I stood watching the clay take form under deft fingers, I was fascinated, and ventured the suggestion that some time I might be allowed to try my hand there.

"Have you ever modeled?" my friend inquired. I answered that I had not, but that the possibilities it offered appealed to me. He had been a sculptor, and understood me. In his studio he put clay into my hands, and left me to copy a simple architectural design,—if I could. I became so absorbed in the work that two hours passed with no realization on my part of the flight of time. I was startled by a hand upon my shoulder.

"Why, my boy," exclaimed my friend, "you have a wonderful instinct for sculpture. I will place you immediately at modeling."

"This was my beginning. I finally opened a studio of my own in New York. I would say this to the young sculptor: Regard each piece of work you do as one of the vital things in your life. Put your best into it, and it will grow to be worthy, and you will grow with it. The secret of achievement in art is sympathy, and a conscience so exacting that it will not allow you to stop short of your highest capabilities."



WOMAN'S RELATION TO CIVIC HOUSE-KEEPING.

A Portion of an Article by Jane Addams in the Chicago Record-Herald of April 1, 1906.

May we not say that city housekeeping has failed partly because women, the traditional housekeepers, have not been consulted as to its multiform activities? The men of the city have been carelessly indifferent to much of this civic housekeeping, as they have always been indifferent to the details of the household. They have totally disregarded a candidate's capacity to keep the streets clean, preferring to consider him in relation to the national tariff or to the necessity for increasing the national navy in a pure spirit of reversion to the traditional type of government which had to do only with enemies and outsiders.

It is difficult to see what military prowess has to do with the multiform duties which in a modern city includes the care of parks and libraries, superintendence of markets, sewers and bridges, the inspection of provisions and boilers, and the proper disposal of garbage. It has nothing to do with the building department which the city maintains that it may see to it that the basements are dry, that the bedrooms are large enough to afford the required cubic feet of air, that the plumbing is sanitary, that the gaspipes do not leak, that the tenement-house court is large enough to afford light and ventilation, that the stairways are fireproof. The ability to carry arms has

nothing to do with the health department maintained by the city which provides that children are vaccinated, that contagious diseases are isolated and placarded, that the spread of tuberculosis is curbed, that the water is free from typhoid infection. Certainly the military conception of society is remote from the functions of the school boards, whose concern it is that children are educated, that they are supplied with kindergartens and are given a decent place in which to play. The very multifariousness and complexity of a city government demands the help of minds accustomed to detail and variety of work, to a sense of obligation for the health and welfare of young children, and to a responsibility for the cleanliness and comfort of other people.

Because all these things have traditionally been in the hands of women, if they take no part in it now they are not only missing the education which the natural participation in civic life would bring to them, but they are losing what they have always had. From the beginning of tribal life they have been held responsible for the health of the community, a function which is now represented by the health department; from the days of the cave dwellers so far as the home was clean and wholesome it was due to their efforts, which are now represented by the bureau of tenement-house inspection; from the period of the primitive village the only public sweeping which was performed was what they undertook in their divers dooryards, that which is now represented by the bureau of street cleaning. Most of the departments in a modern city can be traced to woman's traditional activity, but in spite of this, so soon as these old affairs were turned over to the care of the city they slipped from woman's hands, apparently because they then became matters for collective action and implied the use of the franchise. Because the franchise had in the first instance been given to the man who could fight, because in the beginning he alone could vote who could carry a weapon, it was considered an improper thing for a woman to possess it.

Is it quite public-spirited for women to say, "We will take care of these affairs so long as they stay in our own houses, but if they go outside and concern so many people that they cannot be carried on without the mechanism of the vote we will drop them. It is true that these activities which women have always had are not at present being carried on very well by the men in most of the great American cities, but because we do not consider it 'lady-like' to vote we will let them alone?"

Because women consider the government men's affair and something which concerns itself with elections and alarms, they have become so confused in regard to their traditional business in life, the rearing of children, that they hear with complacency a statement made by the Nestor of sanitary reformers that one-half of the tiny lives which make up the city's death rate each year might be saved by a more thorough application of sanitary science. Because it implies the use of the suffrage they do not consider it woman's business to save these lives. Are we going to lose ourselves in the old circle of convention and add to that sum of wrongdoing which is continually committed in the world because we do not look at things as they really are? Old-fashioned ways which no longer apply to changed conditions are a snare in which the feet of women have always