

The Planet.

Business Office 53
Editorial Room 102
A. STEPHENSON, Proprietor.

WHO DID IT?

Who made the peace? There seem to be even more claimants for the honor than there were for Homer's birthplace, says the Toronto Star.

Some people labored under the delusion that the peace envoys were sent out to make peace, but the newspapers soon knocked that theory on the head. The public was given to understand that while Komura and Witte might go through the motions, the submarine cable was the real negotiator. The diplomatic outfit at the Hotel Wentworth had so little to do with it that a witty Parisian newspaper suggested that Rockefeller might turn the trick by paying the indemnity. It was quite evident that the envoys were looking for lateral pressure, and it is just as evident that they got it in large quantities.

A few days ago M. Witte was elated at the guile he had displayed in the deliberations at Portsmouth Navy Yard. Expanding in the sunshine of success, he called the correspondents together, handed out a beautiful floral tribute, and had his back scratched in turn. Since that time he has received a telegram from his Imperial master which puts another complexion on his glory and gives him reason to revert to his original suspicion that he was playing a dog's comedy. It transpires that the Czar, who has an hereditary right to all the wisdom in Russia, was the real peacemaker. He did not want peace at all, and accordingly proposed terms that Japan could not accept. When Japan did accept then he took credit for knowing that Japan was out for peace at any price. This disposes of M. Witte's claims. Far from acquiring merit, this great Russian statesman gets a sharp slap on the wrist for parting with half of Sakhalin. Komura, as the Star points out, was overruled by the Elder Statesmen in Tokyo and also by the illustrious virtues of the Mikado, from whom all blessings flow.

President Roosevelt seems to be the person that Europe, by a tacit understanding, has decided to blame for it. President Roosevelt takes all the bouquets with an air of having deserved them. Enthusiastic Americans talk of a third term for him in the White House. It has also been suggested that a great temple of peace be erected with his ikon over the altar. If the temple is built, it is to be hoped that the Japanese will not be asked to contribute, having already given \$6,000,000 to the good cause through surrendering the indemnity. The strange thing about it all is that President Roosevelt was as much surprised at the final terms of settlement as anybody else could have been. For a man who was acting as the deus ex machina he knew amazingly little about it.

The utterances of the Japanese newspapers and the rumors of rebellion that come from Tokio indicate that the Japanese magnanimity, which was supposed to have a direct bearing on the peace treaty, was not a national impulse. This magnanimity was instigated from the outside. Meanwhile, like Prer. Rabbit, Great Britain is lying low. However, it is significant that three days after a new alliance with Japan was announced, terms of peace were arranged at Portsmouth, N. H. The unwillingness of British capital to carry on the war may have had something to do with it, not to mention a widespread desire among European chancelleries to have Russia back in her place in the concert of powers as a check to the restlessness of the Kaiser.

Togo's flagship, the Mikasa, the most powerful vessel in the Japanese navy, has gone to the bottom with 600 officers and men. This loss—probably the result of a mere accident—is greater than any that the whole naval power of Russia was able to inflict in the course of 18 months of war.

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TELEPHONE TALKS.

TO TELEPHONE USERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

In Germany the telephone has been operated by the Government since its first introduction. The outside construction is very thorough but the interior equipment is not kept abreast of the times.

The German method of operating in the Central Office is peculiar. In the larger centres, where there are several branch exchanges as in Montreal and Toronto, a subscriber who requires a connection must first call the exchange with which he is connected and ask for the exchange with which the party with whom he wishes to speak is connected. Having got the operator on the second exchange he then asks for the number required, and after being connected he must ring the subscriber for himself. Thus the subscriber is obliged to work his own way, so to speak. The service is cumbersome and slow, but talking results are said to be fairly good.

In Berlin there is a flat rate of \$45.00, and in Hamburg \$40.00. This applies to either office or residence and the average rate is higher than in Canada—very much higher in the smaller exchanges. They have also a measured service rate, but comparatively few avail themselves of it.

Development of the telephone service is slow in Germany, and in this respect cannot compare at all favorably with Canada. Rural service, which is receiving so much attention here, is apparently not thought of in Germany, nor in fact, in any of the continental European countries.

In Russia also, telephone service is entirely in the hands of the Government. While there is little information that is definite it is universally conceded that the rates are high, development slow, and the service bad.

Wherever there is exclusive Government ownership there is the same story. It was on this fact that one of the expert witnesses based his assertion that "with a fair field a Company would beat a Government out every time in a competing telephone service."

There is nothing in the reports from the countries of Europe of any considerable area which would be an encouragement to change our system of telephone service for theirs.

We shall discuss conditions in Sweden in our next.

THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF CANADA.

THE STAGE

"All the world's a stage
And all the men and women
Merely players."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At The Grand—

The Wayward Son—Sept. 15.

Florodora—Sept. 22.

Isle of Spice—Sept. 25.

Down By The Sea—Sept. 27-28.

The Isle of Bong Bong—Oct. 5.

(Supplied to The Planet by Press Agents.)

With a blending of laughter, thrills and tears, "The Wayward Son," a fascinating story of home life, comes to the Grand to-night with a complete scenic outfit and a large and capable company of metropolitan players.

That this stirring drama created such a sensation in New York, where it has just finished a record-breaking engagement at the Grand Opera House, is owing, in a great measure, to the startling realistic locomotive rescue scene, in which a full sized engine and tender dashes on the outside. Meanwhile, like Prer. Rabbit, Great Britain is lying low.

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