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Special Convention of C. R. & B. A. Will Be Held at Hotel Rochester. Tuesday, August 12th.

A Special Convention of the C. R. & B. A., will open at the Hotel Rochester, in the city of Rochester, on Tuesday morning, August 12th, 1919.

The committee on credentials will meet with the Supreme Recorder on Monday morning at 9 o'clock so that there will not be any delay in passing upon the credentials on the morning of the Convention. The Hotel Rochester will be the headquarters and the Convention Hall at the Hotel Rochester will be the place where the Convention will be held.

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# THE TELEPHONE PROPERTIES HAVE BEEN RETURNED

After a year of Federal control, the telephone property, which makes up the Bell Telephone System, has been returned to its owners by the United States Government.

While the property has been properly maintained, it is not the same property which the Government took over on August 1st, 1918. It is not as adequate for its job or as well manned as it was; that it is not, is in no way the fault of Federal control which was eminently fair. It is due to causes for which neither the Government nor the Companies are to blame.

A year ago to-day we were at war. Labor and materials needed for both telephone operation and construction were turned to military uses. Some materials were so vital to carrying on the war that even the work of providing telephone facilities for the Government was retarded and no part of them could be spared for commercial purposes.

No less vital was the Government's need for those skilled to create, maintain and operate the vast intercommunication systems necessary in modern warfare and in the conduct of the vastly increased Government services.

Thousands of telephone men were all ready at the battle front. Thousands more were under arms, and still telephone experts and skilled operators went into the service of the Government and contributory industries by tens of thousands.

The reserves of plant and equipment were drawn upon until they were entirely used up, and the experienced staff was gradually depleted. To find others to take the places of those who had gone was difficult, to train them takes time.

During the year came Victory and the armistice; and instantly the business world sprang into intense activity. The demands for telephone service passed all former records.

To replenish the exhausted reserves and to provide all the skilled workers needed to meet this unprecedented emergency there began a rush for construction, for readjustment, for high pressure repairs, for feverish extensions and intensive training of new employees.

The return of the property comes in the very midst of this race between an overpowering demand and an up-building of a system whose growth was held back and whose forces were scattered by the vital needs of war.

Much progress has been made in the up-building of this system, but more is required to meet the swift and continuing growth of business and to give "first aid" to every other business and every other service struggling against unprecedented demand.

The prosperity which creates this emergency in service creates also a scarcity of those desiring employment in the service.

Under such conditions the quality of telephone service generally has necessarily suffered, this perhaps being marked here more occasionally in the service on toll calls.

To immediately overcome the handicaps which the situation imposes is beyond human power. There are no people in any public or private endeavor who are working more tirelessly or more strenuously for the common good than those of the Telephone Companies.

Service has always been given. More of it must be given and of improved quality. In some cases improvement will take months, but eventually service will win the race with demand.



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