

A Material Comparison

TELEPHONE materials today cost from 20% to over 400% more than they did in 1914 and with one or two exceptions prices are still climbing. The increase within the past year averages 16%. Here is a table showing the rising prices of six of the materials we use in large quantities:

Materials	Cost 1914	Ratio Cost 1919	Ratio Cost 1920
Cable	100	146	169
Copper Steel Wire	100	141	160
Inside Wire	100	183	233
Poles	100	143	188
Lead Sleaving . . .	100	180	213
Conduit	100	198	213

These advancing costs of materials have affected our business in two ways: (1) by increasing our capital expendi-

ture for new telephone plant and (2) by increasing the current expenses of operating and maintaining our plant.

The Effect Upon Capital Investment For New Plant

In 1914, a fairly normal year, we expended \$12,944,000 capital for new telephone plant in the Empire State. In 1919 our capital expenditure for new plant was \$18,278,000. This year we plan a capital expenditure of more than \$30,000,000 for new telephone plant, an amount over twice that expended

in a normal year and 64% greater than that of 1919. Each dollar of capital now buys approximately 50 cents worth of materials rated on the 1914 basis. Payments for labor have shown a corresponding increase. Hence, about twice the amount of money is now required to provide a telephone station.

The Effect Upon Current Expenses

The increase in material costs has also added greatly to the expense of operating and maintaining our property. In 1919, out of every dollar of revenue, 31 cents was paid for materials and other miscellaneous expenses not including wages or taxes. In 1920, according to an estimate made in May, it will be necessary to pay

36 cents out of every dollar of revenue received for these same expenses. This is an increase of five cents out of each dollar of revenue. This ratio of 36 cents applied to the total estimated revenue for 1920 means an increase for these items of expense of approximately 6,250,000 dollars over 1919.

The money for meeting the current expense of operating and maintaining our plant and the funds for paying the necessary return to investors who provide the capital for new equipment, must come from our revenues. These revenues must also provide a margin of safety upon the increased capital investment, so as to encourage the further investment of money in our business, that alone will enable us to meet new demands for service.

Our revenues have not kept pace with our increased expenses. Our total expenses for the first five months of 1920 are over 32% greater than those for the same period in 1919. Our total revenues are only 17% greater.

We cannot keep our plant up to standard, nor can we expand it to meet new requirements for service unless our revenues are sufficient to enable us to meet our financial obligations. Adequate service depends upon adequate revenues.

NEW YORK TELEPHONE COMPANY

RELIEVES BEES OF LABOR

Metal Honey Comb Helps Industrial Insects to Lay Up More Honey For Their Owner.

"Comb foundation" (originally the invention of a woman) is a familiar commercial product nowadays, being made of beeswax and turned out by a simple machine that somewhat resembles a clothes wringer.

Rectangular sheets of this material are placed in the frames of the beehive, and, being already laid out with suitable foundations for the cells, they relieve the bees of just that much work, the industrious insects having only to build up the walls to such height as the spacing of the frames permits.

A new idea, said to have proved entirely successful, is that of making the foundation sheets of aluminum instead of beeswax. When the metal has been brushed lightly with melted wax it serves the purpose just as well, the bees being quite content to build upon it. One advantage of the aluminum sheets is that they are not fragile.

Simple Truth.
The theater was crowded and the audience sat with bated breath as they watched the villain stride across the stage and grasp the trembling heroine roughly by the wrist.
"Ah, I know your father's secret!" he hissed in her ear. "At last you are in my power. Will you become my wife, or shall I make it known to the world? I have discovered that he has 10,000 stolen tins of condensed

milk stored away in his strong room. I am the only one who knows his secret."

"Have pity on me!" implored the heroine. "What if it should leak out?"

"If it should leak out," replied the villain, "it would be a mess."
The Financial Gossip.
The unsettling of foreign exchange has bred a considerable contempt for foreign currency in the minds of certain Americans. The American father of one Yank who had stayed in France to "clean things up" had established a generous line of credit for him. Friend Son began to hit things up rather hard, and in consequence the father received a cablegram reading: "Your son's account already overdrawn 100,000."

To which he cabled back to the bankers:

"If you mean dollars, send him home; if you mean pounds tell him to be careful; if you mean those funny little things let him have all he wants."—American Legion Weekly.

Still Cheap.
Little Ruth was ready for Sunday school when father called her. "Here," he began, "I want you to buy me a Sunday paper on the way home from Sunday school. Let's see—it's 8 cents now instead of 5— isn't it?"
"And don't forget to give her a penny for the collection," mother called from the dining room.
Ruth took the penny and eyed it solemnly. "Isn't it nice, daddy," she asked, "that while everything else keeps going up in price Sunday school

stays just the same?"

Adapting Natural Power.
With the ever-increasing supply of electrical energy furnished by the development of Switzerland's vast resources in water power, consideration of various electrically driven household appliances is growing from year to year, reports Consul Francis E. Stewart, Berne. Up to the present time the use of washing machines in Switzerland has been very limited and electrically driven machines have been utilized only in public laundries.

Jud Tinkins says that anyhow the war has put a silencer on the man who used to be always talking about how much better they did everything in Europe.

What to Do
For a change in your diet...

Savory Chicken Salad
Put one teaspoonful each of whole spice, minced onion, green pepper into three cups of boiling water, add one-half cup of salt and simmer ten minutes, and add one pint of this boiling water to a package lemon gelatin, which dissolved. Cool and as the stiffens add two cups of minced chicken. Pack into a mold and set away to harden. Turn out on a bed of lettuce and serve with good salad dressing. This may be used as a sandwich filling with a little mayonnaise dressing.

Pineapple Filling for Cakes
Any layer cake recipe may be used with this filling, or a sponge cake baked in layers: Take one-half cup of pineapple, add one cupful of sugar and the yolks of two eggs, and one tablespoonful of corn starch, all together, except the sugar, for a few minutes, then cool, add the sugar and finish cooking, add what the recipe calls for of butter and cool before spreading.

Tomato and Pepper Salad
Scald the tomatoes, peel and cut into halves. Place on a lettuce leaf, slice up. Scoop out seeds of the tomatoes and place four or five almonds in the center of each tomato. Sprinkle with pepper and a little oil. Serve chilled, with a mayonnaise dressing.

Oatmeal Gruel
Take a quart of water, a pinch of salt and one-half cupful of oatmeal to the water when boiling for ten minutes, then strain. Strain the gruel, to the first, add a little sweet cream or milk, and once and serve. Add more if needed.

Needing
Break two eggs into a bowl, and then add as much sugar as you like, stirred into them. Roll out on a very thin sheet, cut in strips for half an hour, then soak in soup, tea or strong infusion.

Southern Steak
Roll beef or veal in seasoned flour and fry in a little butter until brown. Cover with milk and bake until the milk is absorbed. Cover the top while baking.

Just Folks
By EDGAR A. SNODGRASS

EVERYWHERE IN AMERICA
Not somewhere in America, but everywhere today,
Where snow-crowned mountains
their heads, the valleys where
children play,
Beside the bench and waterfalls
on every lake and stream,
And in the depths of each forest,
share a common breath,
The dream, our boys and girls,
of freedom and of glory,
And once again in honor's
rally and unity.

Not somewhere in America, but
country found
But east and west and north and
once more the flag is
And once again, at last, let us
break their brotherhood,
And make the world a
where only justice
The patriotism that is
over there
The hero at a certain point in
everywhere,
O'er humble homes and
the stony banner
And far and near, throughout
the men of valor.

The flag that flutters
in fluttering air,
O'er homes that you
The same inspiration
The souls of men
The red, white and
Means to one
Just what it
The self-same
feel and
In through
The
Jud Tinkins says that anyhow the war has put a silencer on the man who used to be always talking about how much better they did everything in Europe.