

The Jersey Herald.

"Be True to Your word and Your work and Your Country."

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VOE. IV.

BILL NYE TACKLES THE CLAM.

And in His Own Way Tells The New York "World" How He Became Truly Repentant.

Probably the American clam is less fully understood than any other feature of our boasted civilization. He is either greatly overestimated on account of his naturally taciturn manner and reserve, or else he is regarded as an intellectual dwarf because he never tries to shine in society.

Clams are of two classes—viz, the little-neck clams and the other clams.

One of the peculiarities of the New York clam is that he has no vivativeness, as the phrenologists call it. The pale bluish growth in the middle of the clam is not vivativeness or love of life, for he does not care to live. Neither does he care whether anybody else lives or not.

I bought a dozen raw clams of a globular man in a white apron a short time ago, having at that time a very enormous idea about clams in the abstract or in the shell. Having been accustomed to the antique or canned clam which we used to get by bull team in an incredibly short time from Leavenworth and other ports, where the land-locked or malleable clam is found, I knew little of the true Manhattan clam. I only knew that he cared little for life, but died easily. I had heard that the male clam would turn when trodden upon, but I regarded him as generally undemonstrative and in favor of arbitration.

I was misled also by the calm and unruffled demeanor of the Eastern clam, so I ate these twelve pachyderms hurriedly in order to catch a car, fearing that my seat in the City Hall Park would be taken by some one else.

In less than half an hour, if I had read an advertisement in the paper offering a reward for the return of those clams, I would have hunted up the owner and said to him: "Sir, I do not wish to wrong any man. Here are your clams."

This feeling grew on me till I went to a drug store and bought a dose, which I scattered in among those turbulent elements. It was a mixture of things which the druggist sells during the summer as an Asiatic cholera mixture and in winter as a fire-kindler. I could not help asking myself, as I drank it and afterwards threw in one of those patent grenades for putting out a fire, why a man should put an incendiary under his vest to steal away his brains. I then went to the Battery and lay down under a tree. People who saw me tearing up the greensward and kicking the bark off the tree for a distance of seven feet above the ground said that it was too bad and claimed that no man ought to allow his dog run loose in August to get hydrophobia and then bite innocent people.

People who still think that the pallid and aimless clam does not care for intestine strife or turmoil ought to go and see the way that tree is kicked to pieces.

I was telling a friend afterwards about the lawn festival and clam colic recital that I had been giving, and he said that I made a mistake in eating the clams raw. Raw clams at this season of the year, he said, were liable to be overcome by the heat, or they might be old and blase when they were caught, but if I could eat them in the form of chowder I would like them, and they would do me good.

He knew a good place to get clam chowder and I went with him. It was a very *ricochet* place, and I was told that Commodore Vanderbilt came there and ate clam chowder only a short time before his death. So did I.

Chowder, however, is made by shooting two-year-old clams out of a gun, and then cooking them with other things until they seem to lose their identity. It does not hurt people who are used to it, but a man who has most always lived on canned Lima beans ought to have his post-office address and the address of his favorite undertaker in his pocket before he gives himself up to the false joys of clam chowder.

After we had eaten our chowder we went to call on a friend, and I heard afterwards that he said I was a very much overestimated man. I can see now how he came to form that opinion. I cannot remember what I said while at his house, but if I said anything that would do to write in an autograph album I must have done so mechanically.

I then went home, where I did not have to be polite. I have often thought that in referring to the joys of home, writers and sculptors do not bear down hard enough on the fact that we can be as mean as we like around our own hearthstone and play a kind of Jekyll-Hyde business for years sometimes without being discovered. In the meantime our wives are requested to always meet us with a smile and a pair of warm slippers, so that we will not become dissatisfied with our home and go somewhere else to do our drinking. I presume that as many as two or three men have been driven to irretrievable ruin by this means.

The other man was ruined by eating pudding sauce that had elderberry wine in it. I went home because I was afraid that among strangers, the way I was feeling, I could not carry sunshine wherever I went or be the life of the party. So I went home where nobody expected it.

Looking back over that long, dark afternoon, I am proud to say that I did not kick any of the children. No member of my family can ever truthfully say that I kicked him, even while under the influence of clams. I sent for a physician and requested that he would come as soon as possible, not because I thought he could save my life, but because I wanted some one to lean upon and show my tongue to.

He said I had colic. I had more than half suspected it all the time. He then made himself unpopular at our house by saying that he did not think I would die. After that he wrote a brief editorial in a foreign tongue and asked me if I had any one I could send to the drug store with it. I said I was afraid not. My butler had gone down to the glazier's to get one of the family diamonds reset and the footman was busy putting a new handle on our crest, but as soon as I was well enough I would go myself.

I said this in a tone of biting sarcasm, for I have no butler and wouldn't know how I could keep him busy if I had one. I've never seen the day yet when I couldn't do my own butlering and still have time for my other work.

He then said he would send the prescription himself if I would tell him of some druggist whom I felt that I could trust most. I said I felt that I could trust most any druggist around here, and I hoped they felt the same way towards me.

I took a great deal of medicine that night, but continued restless and clamorous for some time. I suffered very much and said things that were calculated to discourage the use of clams in our midst. I do not say that the clam, for every one, is absolutely indigestible, but I do say that I cannot see why people can eat clams, and still hesitate about eating pounded glass. Neither do I understand why any one should buy clams on the half shell and then throw away the shell.

Clams grow best in low wet grounds and do not go out very much. They live to a great age and their plumage is not gaudy, even in the tropics. Many believe the juice of the clam to be a good disinfectant for those who imagine they see funny reptiles and polka-dot insects floating through the air, but I do not know whether it is or not.

Some say that a cold clam is a good thing to put on a boil. I have often thought that if I had a large and restless boil I would like to put a clam on it and then watch them from a distance. The methods of the two are so utterly different that a combat between a cold and austere clam and a hot-headed, tight-fitting clam would be very instructive.

Clams do not produce their young alive, but hatch them from eggs with which they are wisely provided by nature. It takes the female clams a long time to hatch out her young, owing to the low temperature of her feet. If I had a large flock of female clams who manifested a desire to hatch out some young clams, I would fool them while they were looking the other way and watch their surprise when they came off the nest with a large brood of oysters.

BILL NYE.

The Lumber Land Boom.

There is evidently a boom in South Carolina timber lands. At present it is in its incipency, but it is growing every day, and the next few years promise to see the State's vast resources in lumber utilized and lands never before tread by the foot of man opened up and developed by North-

ern pioneers and capitalists.

In her virgin forests alone the State has a wealth that is almost inestimable and they are increasing in value every day as the more accessible forests of the North and West disappear before the blade of the axmen and the saw of the mill owner. The first thing about these lands that strikes the prospective buyers who have visited them is the remarkably low price at which they are held. They are also struck by the superior quality and wonderful variety of the timber.

It is said that nearly one-half the area of the State is rich in hard wood forests that are as yet undeveloped, and that some of them can be bought as low as 50 cents an acre. The remarkably low valuation of these lands is accounted for by the fact that a large part of them are held by the State for taxes and are sold on tax titles, while in cases where they are still held by individuals the owners have paid taxes on them so long without getting any return that they are now forced to sell, them for what they can get.

Mention was made in The News and Courier yesterday of the sale of twenty thousand acres of land on the Santee to Messrs Rathbone & Beidler, of Chicago. There are also now other Northern investors in Charleston, and the prospects are that more capitalists will be induced to come here as soon as the resources of the State become more widely known. The News and Courier has repeatedly called attention to the wonderful advantages of South Carolina in this respect, and the truth of all that has been said about them is now being verified, and the more it has realized the more will the State be developed and improved.

Mr. J. D. Lacy, of the firm of Robinson & Lacy, Grand Rapids, Michigan, is now in Charleston, negotiating for timber lands, Grand Rapids is one of the largest furniture manufacturing centres in the United States, and is the demand there for Southern lumber and hard woods that Mr. Lacy, whose firm are extensive dealers in Southern timber lands, expects to be kept here and to locate with his family in Charleston next winter. On Monday night Mr. Lacy went up to Fort Motte to complete the details of the sale made to Messrs Rathbone & Beidler, which sale was consummated principally through the efforts of himself and Capt. J. A. Peterkin, of Fort Motte. Mr. Lacy has been operating in Southern timber lands since 1880, and has been instrumental in bringing large amounts of Northern and Western capital to the South for such investments.

Mr. John Bradley, who is well-known in Charleston as superintendent of the Seaview Railroad, is now in the city looking out for timber lands. He is now in negotiation for several tracts on the Santee River for parties who have capital to invest. Speaking on the subject to a Reporter yesterday, Mr. Bradley said that the cheapness of the lands in this vicinity was remarkable. They were destined, in his opinion, to become a source of wonderful wealth to this city and State. He thought that Charleston was very far from having reached the end of her destiny as some people believed she had.—News and Courier.

Sugar for the People.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., August 3.—Claus Spreckles, the great sugar manufacturer whose mammoth refinery on the Delaware is now one of the landmarks of Philadelphia, has decided to duplicate his plant. Spreckles is in Europe with his son Adolph. Claus H. Spreckles, who is associated with his father in the management of the great refinery, has notified the contractor of the construction of buildings, and George A. Watson, general manager of Spreckles, that the capacity of the refinery would be doubled. The work of erecting additional buildings, which will adjoin those now in course of constructing, and placing in them the necessary machinery, will begin soon. The producing capacity of the works when completed will be about 4,000,000 pounds of sugar daily. The entire cost of the plant will be between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000.

Wanamaker on the Wires.

WASHINGTON, August 5.—The following letter from Postmaster General Wanamaker to Dr. Norvin Green, president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, was made public to-day:

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT, OFFICE POSTMASTER GENERAL, WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 2.—Mr. Norvin Green, President Western Union Telegraph Company, New York.—Dear Sir: Referring to your letters of July 11th, 16th and 27th, which have been given to the public press through channels other than this department, and in which you protest against any new rate for Government telegrams, and offer various arguments to prove that the old rate of one cent a word is as low as your company can accept without loss, I beg leave to say:

First. Your unqualified statement that the privileges and benefits derived by your company through Acts of Congress are purely imaginary, and the companion assertion that your company never "took a stone or a stick of timber or appropriated a foot of land belonging to the Government" under such Acts are not sustained by the facts. It is an undeniable fact that the telegraph company in accepting the Act of 1866 and afterwards the supplementary Acts, considered they were gaining special and actual benefits which fully compensated them for the low rates intended to be granted to the Government, and the representatives of the Government likewise supposed they were securing some benefits for the valuable concessions being made to the companies. The telegraph companies not only accepted the Acts, expecting substantial benefits would ensue, but to the Western Union Telegraph Company notably great and conspicuous benefits have already accrued.

Under these grants company has claimed the right to use, without compensation of any kind as to right of way, all the highways of the country, on the grounds of their being postroads. It has broadened this claim to the extent that the streets of cities and towns are also postroads, and therefore open and free to its occupancy and use. The Courts have sustained it in this claim. You are necessarily familiar with the Pensacola case, in which the Supreme Court of the United States decided that the Western Union Telegraph Company had rights which even the foreign State of Florida could not annul. This under the benefits of this Act, instead of not occupying a foot of public land as you assert, you are in fact occupying many thousands of miles of postroads, and are privileged to occupy all highway in the U. S.

You have thus been enabled to occupy all the highways and use the streets in the large cities of Philadelphia and New York, regardless of the views of local authorities and almost regardless of public opinion. Even the elevated railroads of New York City have been claimed as postroads and the claim sustained. The State of New York may regulate the use, but it is not able to deprive you of these great privileges secured to telegraph companies, and maintained to them alone by the Congressional Act of 1866. Beyond this, the streets of all other cities and towns of the United States have been kept open to your use.

NOT PURELY IMAGINARY.

I am sure that on reflection you will hardly claim that such great benefits are "purely imaginary." In other respects your company and other telegraph companies have secured substantial benefits from the Government and from the public under Acts of Congress, but these I have mentioned are enough I think to strain my former reference to the privileges and benefits given to you by the Government, the value of which in my judgement is beyond calculation. Conferring such great privileges and benefits on you, the Government, in my belief, expected and is entitled to receive not simply your exceptionally low rates to others but even a lower special rate.

Second. As to your question of the legal power of the postmaster general to fix a rate for Government messages, I would only remark that

such right appears to have been understood by previous postmaster generals as an official duty, and their exercise of the right or performance of the duty has been generally and constantly accepted and respected by the telegraph companies. In any event I should say we may agree that the Act of Congress at least imposes on the postmaster general the duty to name the rate and maintain it until by a Court of Inquiry the rate has been shown to be unjust.

Third. As to your qualified statement that no corporations have received a rate equal to the proposed Government rate of one mill a word. Your statement that press associations are not corporations is hardly justified by the facts, and is not material to the question. They may not be corporations for general business, but most, if not all of them, are incorporated under the laws of some State, and their dealings with the telegraph company is as corporations not as individuals.

ONE MILL A WORD. You will not deny, indeed, one of your officials has admitted to me, that some of the press associations get their news reports for a mill a word to each newspaper, and in one association the rate is even lower than that. I do not criticize the press rate; it is not too low. It would be better, in my judgement, for the public press and the telegraph companies if it were still lower. As to the Association Press there is force in your statement that it is wholesale rate, as it were, for the same dispatch sent over the same wire at the same time to several customers, but it is not true that the rate given to some portions of the press effectively contradicts your statement that for messages transmitted to a single address "the Government is our only customer enjoying reduced rates."

By this I presume you mean that the Government has the lowest rate given to any single customer, its lowest rate being one cent a word for day and three-fourths of a cent for a night message. But this charge is made, not only upon the message itself, but upon the address and signature as well, so that for ten words in address and signature, the above rate is, in fact, two cents per word in the day and one and a half cents per word at night. Is it not true that the large papers of New York, Chicago, and other large cities have half a cent rate for their special dispatches in the day and one-fourth of a cent at night, or a rate one half lower than the Government has been granted? Is it not true also that this patronage from the enterprising press is the most profitable that you have, and it would, in fact, give you still more profit if made still lower. Reduced rates bring increased business and enlarged profit. Your own testimony before committees of Congress at various times has been steadily to the effect that every time your company reduced prices it has gained an increased income. This accords with my view that a constantly decreasing rate, where there are large numbers of customers, will better serve the public and better profit any business.

I believe that the new rate proposed for the Government business would not materially alter the amount of cash received by you, while the Government would be enabled to greatly quicken and vitalize the transaction of its business in all departments. It is quite true, as you say, that the Government is able to pay proper rates, and I may add that, so far as I know, is willing to pay just rates, and that it is the farthest from my thought that "the people" should suffer by reason of the losses you claim that you are now making and would still further make on Government business.

LOWER THE RATES ALL AROUND!

I am satisfied the people could and should have much lower rates than now exist, and that neither the people nor the Government should suffer because the specially low rates are given to favored customers. While claiming that the Government has received the lowest single address rate, you not only admit a lower rate to the press, but also plainly say that certain railroads or transportation companies are given "half commercial rates." When it is considered

that in Government messages all words are counted, the address and signature as well as the message, and in all other telegrams the message only is counted, is it not true that this half rate to such companies is at least as low as the Government rate, and in some instances lower? For instance, a Government message from Washington to New York, containing twenty words in the message, and ten words in the address and signature, would be charged at 30 cents which is nearly 50 per cent more than the transportation companies would pay for the same message.

I am not speaking now of, and I do not wish to have confused with this part of the discussion, the free service you give to railroads for certain service to you. These payments I understand to be for rights of way, etc. More than that I am informed your company in many cases actually pays large sums of money to railroads for rights of way, and it does not seem unreasonable to suppose that it would not be out of place for telegraph companies to be expected to make compensation of some kind to the Government for its much larger concessions, which, in effect, have secured to you, particularly in cities and towns, much more valuable rights of way.

THE QUESTION OF COST.

Fourth. As to your statement that no message can be carried and delivered by a telegraph company for less than twenty cents without the service being done at loss.

The cost of telegraph service appears to be a very difficult thing to ascertain definitely. Perhaps establishing a proper rate for the Government to pay, this subject may best be referred to a commission to ascertain the facts.

In one of your letters you put the average cost of a message to the company in receiving, carrying and delivering at twenty-three and two-tenths cents. In this cost do you not include large sums paid for rentals of leased lines, some of which are not now in use, but only valuable to you in removing competitive rights of way on railroads and on other accounts, which are obviously chargeable to capital account and not to operating expenses.

Is it not true that in a few years and for several years in succession large volumes of business have been handled by your company and other companies at a minimum rate 10 cents a message, and did not this rate continue till the Western Union absorbed the competing lines? A table of statistics given in your memorial to the Senate committee in 1888 shows that during a period of ten years your company did not lose money but made large profits. If this were possible then, and especially as your business has grown very largely in volume since, it would seem that it might be practicable now.

I understand that signal service reports make up a very large proportion of the entire amount of Government telegraph business. Your schedule shows that for eleven years the Government has been paying out three cents a word for each circuit over which Government messages are transmitted. No reduction whatever has been made in that rate since 1877, but within that time you have reduced the public rate from sixty-two and a half cents to thirty cents per message, more than 50 per cent reduction, and the cost of handling telegrams has been reduced during the same period from forty-three and four-tenths cents to twenty-three and two-tenths cents per message, or over 46 per cent reduction. Within the past five years the public rate has fallen 18 per cent, and the cost of transmission about 8 per cent, but in that time there has been no reduction whatever in Government rates.

UNCLE SAM IMPOSED ON.

Taking all these facts into account, I believe that the Government has been paying for its telegraph service more than any other customer, giving a like or approximate amount of business, and that within the period first named there has not been so great a reduction in Government rates as to the general public and the press.

Valving entirely the question of benefits occurring to telegraph com-

panies under the Act of 1866, the Government ought to be put upon as favorable a basis as to telegraph rates as your most favored customers.

Inasmuch as this discussion has taken a wider range than I anticipated, and it may be proper to add, referring to your letter, that you are right in saying that the acceptance by the telegraph companies of the Act of 1866, "rendered it to all intents and purposes a compact between the Government and the telegraph companies." But I do not agree with all of your next succeeding statement. For instance, the printed copy of your memorial presented to the Senate postoffice committee last year misquotes the Act of 1866, which should read, "provided, however, that the United States may at any time purchase all telegraph lines, property and effects of any or all companies acting under the provisions of the Act of July 24, 1866."

MIND YOUR P'S AND Q'S.

The words "any" and "or" are omitted in your memorial. This omission was, of course, an error, but as your correspondence expresses the same meaning I mention the matter merely to remark that your views on that particular are not adopted by this department. The Act of 1866 was, as you say, a compromise measure, in which the United States for time being waived its inherent rights to the performance of telegraph service in conjunction with the postoffice. The first telegraph line in this country was built with Government aid, and that the Government did not continue to exercise its undoubted prerogatives by extending and operating the telegraph as a more speedy means of communication than the past, was, as is well known, purely an accident.

I have given full and respectful consideration to your protest, weighed arguments and investigated the subject for myself through such channels as are open to me, desiring only to protect the interests of the Government.

In conclusion I beg to remind you that in my letter of July 13, in answer to yours protesting against the reduction, I consented to your request for a conference on the subject before any official order to the departments fixing rates should be issued, and I am yet quite willing to entertain any reasonable proposition based upon known facts.

I have the honor to remain very respectfully yours,

JOHN WANAMAKER,

Postmaster General.

Mistakes.

It is not disgraceful to make a mistake. Those who never make mistakes never do anything worth mentioning. The attitude of men with reference to their mistakes is sometimes disgraceful. One who cannot see his own errors even when they are pointed out will not make improvement. Until we discover and deplore our defects, we will not take pains to remedy them. Frankness in confessing faults is a great grace. When one becomes so perfect in his own estimation that he has no occasion to confess his faults to his neighbors, he is well nigh beyond the reach of hope. A Christian who believed that his holiness had reached the point of faultlessness once gave way to a violent fit of temper, and when forced to apologize told his story well enough until he came to the conclusion, and then spoiled it by saying, "I cannot tell what made me use such language; I think it must have been inspired; I am sure I was not angry." "Who can understand his errors?"

A Good Name.

What is more valuable in any pursuit than a good name? It is often the key-note of success in your calling. It is worth ten times its cost to its possessor during life; and after death, what more precious legacy can be left for children? Besides, the value of a good name does not accrue to yourself and children alone. The whole community is benefitted thereby. Your noble traits of character remain as a stimulus to others, encouraging them to efforts of self improvement.

To a young man, ambitious of a position of honor and profit in the business world, a good name is of the first importance. Without this, no one is wanted in any position of trust.

Burroughs & Collins.