

20-TON BELL RAISED IN RIVERSIDE CHURCH

**Unit of Rockefeller Carillon Is
Hoisted 400 Feet to Its
Place in Five Minutes.**

LARGEST IN THIS COUNTRY

**Dispute of Electrical Unions Delays
Work for a Short Time—Last
Bell Up Tomorrow.**

The twenty and one-half ton Bourdon bell, largest unit of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller carillon was hoisted 400 feet to its place in the tower of the new Riverside Church, at 121st Street and Riverside Drive, yesterday morning and hung there alongside seventy other bells. Only one bell, the second largest of the group, which gives out a note of low D, still remains to be hoisted before the carillon is completed. It probably will be put in place tomorrow.

The Bourdon bell, said to be the largest in America, weighs 40,926 pounds and is 122½ inches in diameter. It is constructed of bell metal, an alloy of tin and copper, and gives out the note low C. On its sides appear in relief the figures of the Apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and around its mouth is inscribed: "This bell, with low D, D and F, also certain treble bells, was added to the Laura Spelman Rockefeller carillon when the carillon was removed from the Park Avenue Baptist Church to the Riverside Church of New York, 1928 A. D. For the first time in history a carillon compass of five octaves is here achieved and exceeded."

It took only five minutes to hoist the huge bell to its position in the tower. But a dispute between electrical workers belonging to two different unions of the American Federation of Labor delayed the hoisting for forty-nine minutes at the start.

Everything was in readiness at 10:36 A. M. The steel cables were attached, the specially designed steel hoisting rig leaned out from the top window of the tower, the signal was given and the stationary engineer threw in his clutch. When the great bell was three inches off the ground the hoisting stopped, and Arthur Townsend, representative of Gillett & Johnston, manufacturers of the bell at Croydon, England, picked up a heavy mallet, its end covered with cloth.

He struck the bell twice to test its tone. Its solemn note boomed out of the churchyard to the hundreds of bystanders gathered to watch the operation. And then word came from somewhere and the bell was quickly let back to the ground.

Spectators Are Mystified.

Mystified, the watchers waited. Gesticulating groups could be seen in conferences, but the bell stayed on the ground. Two sound newsreel trucks had had their apparatus ready, with microphones placed to record the audible features of the work. After forty minutes of discussion the newsreel men began to pack their apparatus.

According to them and to a representative of the building's steel contractors, who designed and built the lifting apparatus and were in charge of the hoisting, the delay was caused by a union dispute. The electricians in the building, members of Local 3 of the International Electrical Workers Union, refused to permit the hoisting because the electrical wires for the sound newsreels were laid and hooked up by men not members of their union. The newsreel electricians were members of Local 52, of the International Association of Theatrical and Stage Employees, also a branch of the American Federation of Labor.

The camera men added that "we offered to let the men from Local 3 do the electrical work on the apparatus, but of course they didn't know how to." But the building electricians, who declined to discuss their stand, were adamant and the bell remained on the ground until the motion-picture men had departed.

Bell Up in Five Minutes.

At 11:25 A. M. a new start was made, and the bell was at the top of the tower in five minutes. Then it was hung alongside the seventy other bells. One, which is the second largest of the group and gives out the note of low D, still remains to be hoisted before the carillon is completed. It weighs about fourteen tons and probably will be put in place tomorrow.

The carillon is in memory of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller and was a gift to the church from her son, John D. Rockefeller Jr., who is chief financial supporter and chairman of the building committee. The Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick is pastor of the church, which will be opened for public worship Oct. 5.

Officials of the American Federation of Labor declined to comment when questioned later on the dispute in jurisdiction between the electrical workers. An official of Local 3 said his group took the stand that the jurisdiction of electrician members of the International Association of Theatrical and Stage Employees did not extend out of theatres and studios and that they had no right to work where a construction job was in progress. He said he felt sure that members of Local 3 working on the church would have been competent to set up and handle the electricians' part of the sound-picture apparatus.

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