

OREGON COMMISSION PRODS MR. BURLESON

Telephone Inquiry Message Has "Kick" in It.

CLEAR STATEMENT DESIRED

Oregon Body Would Like to Know Whether Postmaster-General Authorized Rate Increase.

SALEM, Or., Nov. 18.—(Special).—With the declaration that it is inconceivable that the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company should be afforded an advantage by reason of its financial superiority to competitors that up to this time have been required to pursue through the usual channels their applications for increases in rate schedules, the Public Service Commission today followed its recent message by another telegram to Postmaster-General Burleson. Today's message has a "kick" in it.

Declaring that the "people of Oregon are incensed at this injustice," the Commission asks the Postmaster-General to make us a definite statement as to whether the rates have been initiated by your authority, that we may determine our future action.

Commission Wants Facts.

In its latest demand upon the Postmaster-General the Commission says: "We are unofficially advised that you have authorized the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company to put into effect in Oregon a schedule of increased rates, upon your initiative. In view of your order, No. 1531, of date August 28, 1918, from which we quote: 'In all cases where rate adjustments are pending or immediately necessary they should be taken up by the company involved through the usual channels and action obtained whenever possible. In cases however, where rates are changed, such should be submitted to me for approval before being placed in effect,' we assume that you have acted under a misapprehension of the facts.

"If you are informed that the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company has attempted to file its increased rates in the usual manner and through the usual channel, which in this state is the Public Service Commission, that you have been misinformed. On the contrary, the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company has resorted to the subterfuge of attempting to file its rates without formal and public hearing in plain disregard of the established precedents of this commission and in violation of its statutes.

Oregon People Incensed. "If this is your information then you have full knowledge of the facts. If you are predicating your action upon any information other than as above outlined you are acting upon a supposed state of facts which does not exist. The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company has been denied none of its rights and has made no legal application to this commission for any increase.

"It seems inconceivable that this company should be afforded an advantage by reason of its financial superiority to competitors that up to this time have been required to pursue through the usual channels their applications for increases in rate schedules. The people of Oregon are incensed at this injustice, and we ask you to make us a definite statement as to whether rates have been initiated by your authority, that we may determine our future action.

"This commission feels that if any increased rates have been initiated in Oregon by other authority than its own, common courtesy demands that it should have direct knowledge of the facts."

Governor Ready to Assist.

At a conference between Governor Withycombe and the Public Service Commission today to consider further action relative to the attempt of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company to boost its rates, it developed that tomorrow a further conference will be held between the commission members, Attorney-General Brown and Assistant Attorney-General Bailey. At that time a definite decision probably will be made as to what course to pursue.

PHONE RATES HELD HIGH

Yakima Users Declare New Schedule Unreasonable. YAKIMA, Wash., Nov. 18.—(Special).—The new telephone rate schedule received by the local office of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company from San Francisco headquarters telephone users generally declare to be unreasonably high, even under the existing range of war wages and prices. Whether any formal protest will be made is uncertain, since the lines are under government control and the increase has the sanction of Postmaster-General Burleson and the State Public Service Commission, according to reports here.

Yakima Users Declare New Schedule Unreasonable.

The advance hits suburban service most severely. Rural store telephone cost \$2.50 a month, instead of \$1.50, and rural residences are charged \$3 instead of \$1.20.

BANKERS HOLD ELECTION

TWO DIRECTORS OF FEDERAL RESERVE TO BE CHOSEN.

Three Oregon Men Nominated; Polls Open November 15 for Fifteen Days.

The terms of two directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of the Twelfth District expire December 31. The members of the banks in groups 2 and 4 have been notified of the vacancies and of the nominees for the places. Each member bank in each group has one vote, and all have been notified that the polls would be open after November 15, and the time for casting the ballots is 15 days from the receipt of notice. Group 2 comprises 434 banks having capital and surplus less than \$125,000 and vacancies in its class. A director. In this group there are 15 candidates, three of whom are from Oregon, one from Utah and the remainder from California. The banks nominate their own candidates. The Oregon nominees are E. C. Baird, of the First National Bank of Newberg; E. V. Carter, First National Bank, Astoria; and T. J. Mahoney, Livestock State Bank, North Portland. Alden Anderson, present director representing this group, is not a candidate for re-election.

Group 2 Will Elect a Director in Class B, and John A. McGregor, of San Francisco, is the only candidate, and is the present director whose term expires.

Group 2 is composed of banks having a capital and surplus not less than \$125,000 nor more than \$1,000,000. Directors of state secured Reserve Bank are officials serving in an honorary capacity. The duties do not require constant service, but there are occasional meetings which the members are required to attend. It is worthy that several states in the district have no candidates for the place, among them Washington, Idaho, Nevada and Arizona.

PHONE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES UNABATED

Senator McNary Unable to Get Satisfaction.

INCREASE IS ESSENTIAL

Acting Postmaster-General Says More Money Needed to Employ Operators.

Little satisfaction was gained through the interview accorded Senator McNary, at Washington, D. C., yesterday by Acting Postmaster-General Koons relative to the increase in telephone rates in Portland. Mayor Baker had requested Senator McNary to call upon the postal authorities for explanation of the official attitude toward the rate increase, and a reply was received late last night.

"I interviewed Acting Postmaster-General Koons today," reported Senator McNary, "regarding increased rates in telephone and telephone service, and was informed that he had settled the matter with you previously. He said that the increase was absolutely necessary, due to the fact that, in order to keep the most efficient operators at this time, their salary would have to be increased, and in order to do this, rates would have to be increased accordingly. He was sure people would gladly co-operate for efficiency."

No reply was received from Representative Signott, who had also been asked to intervene, owing to his absence from Washington. The senator telegraphed that he had taken this question up with Senator McNary, who informed him that action already had been taken.

Mayor Sends Inquiry.

"Is the Government authorizing the change of telephone rates through power derived from Congress, without regard for the state law of Oregon?" This sentence in a telegram sent yesterday to the Postmaster-General by Mayor Baker sums up the controversy over the recent advance put into effect. In two previous telegrams sent to Washington, the mayor had asked to get a satisfactory reply, and he is making this his third attempt in an effort to get the desired information before taking drastic action against the company.

Reply to the last message to the Postmaster-General is expected today. Meanwhile complaints against the new rate schedule pour in at the City Attorney's office. Nothing definite will be done with these until definite information comes from Washington. Subscribers, however, still are advised to resist the advanced rates.

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Appropriation Not Made. "Congress made no appropriation for operation of telephone systems, but required that just compensation be paid companies for their properties. Any increase in wages must be met by increased rates, but owners benefit in no way from increase.

"Bitter complaint has been filed with the department regarding Portland service, it being stated that service is inefficient and wages insufficient to retain experienced operators. It is our earnest desire to render good service and pay just wages. It is necessary that wages be such as to enable us to retain operators and remedy condition at the earliest possible moment.

"The increase had the approval of the department. Such increases are effective only till standard rates have been worked out for the country. In our efforts we ask your co-operation."

In answering, Mayor Baker declares that while he is in sympathy with the effort to give higher pay and better service, the people of Portland will demand an answer to the original question of legal procedure. He also says that experienced operators have been refused employment by the company.

M'NARY'S MAJORITY 18,164

OFFICIAL RETURNS RECEIVED FROM ALL BUT MULTNOMAH.

Governor Withycombe Defeats Walter M. Pierce by More Than 15,000 Votes.

Official returns of the recent election from every county except Multnomah, from which the complete official figures are used, show that United States Senator McNary defeated Oswald West by 18,164 votes. The vote was: McNary 82,839, West 64,675. West carried only two of the 36 counties—Deschutes and Jackson.

The official returns from every county, including Multnomah, in our Governorship, show that Governor Withycombe defeated Walter M. Pierce by a margin of 15,068, the vote being Pierce 64,920, Withycombe 80,033. Pierce carried only five counties. They were Deschutes, Harney, Linn, Marion and Union.

The same figures confirm the election of Judge A. S. Bennett, of The Dalles, to the Supreme Court by 403 votes over Circuit Judge Coke, of Marshfield. The final figures in this contest were: Bennett 15,304, Campbell 6159, Coke 11,896, Olson 10,698. The vote on the seven measures follows:

Two new normal schools, yes 49,965, no 66,021. Home for delinquents, yes 43,237, no 65,291. Prohibiting fishing in Rogue River, yes 45,511, no 50,237. Closing Willamette River to fishing, yes 55,659, no 40,893. Deferment tax bill, yes 66,652, no 41,595. Fixing rates for legal advertising, yes 50,171, no 41,826. Increasing state tax levy, yes 41,365, no 56,974.

ARMISTICE TERMS IGNORED

Extortion by Germans Since November 12 Charged.

BRUSSELS, Nov. 18.—(Havas).—M. Lemonnier, the acting burgomaster of Brussels, has written the delegates of the German government, giving details of 12 instances where German soldiers extorted sums of money from inhabitants of Brussels, November 12 and 13. The armistice signed November 11 expressly prohibited such action. The sums taken varied from 500 francs to 110,000 marks, which were taken from a bank.

Postal Service Re-established.

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emergency hospital are much improved, declares Dr. Parrish in predicting much lower numbers of cases and deaths for the rest of the week.

"There will be practically no cases after this week," he says, "if the people will isolate all suspects, stay at home when suffering from bad colds, smother their sneezes and take good care of themselves generally. Removal of the ban has not lessened the individual responsibility—it has increased it twofold."

Schools opened yesterday, completing the readjustment of conditions upset by the closing orders of the past few weeks. About a fifth of the children reappeared. Teachers and other school officials have been cautioned to take every care to prevent the attendance of any of those afflicted.

Deaths reported yesterday: Arthur Edmunds, 33, shipworker, 67 North Twentieth; Mrs. V. Nakimura, 37, 400 Broadway street; Patrick Dwyer, 41, Foreman, 736 Irving street; Frank S. Burbanks, 38, teamster, Common; Miss LeRoy Chamberlain, 4, 6110 East Fifty-fourth avenue; Mrs. Margaret Daring, 33, 768 East Thirtieth street; Mal Kadolph, 18, Thirty-fifth and Powell Valley road; Henry B. Hallam, 36; Harry K. Hall, 34, shipworker; William Kowalsky, 22, 104 Stanton street; Glover, 23, student, Kenon Hotel; Roy E. Beery, 34, shipworker, Astoria; Robert W. Billman, 7, 115 1/2 Killingsworth avenue; Dorothy C. Garriot, 17, 834 Alhambra; Albert F. Krumpf, 31, Jeweler; Thomas O. Robinson, 2, 4423 East Fortieth avenue; Edna E. Cook, 603 East Askeny street; James A. Clement, 46, shipworker, 727 Tillamook street; Ruth L. Hunt, 26, Zimbra Apartments; Edward G. Bieker, 36, shipworker, Chesterberry Hotel; Victor K. Irwin, 34, auto mechanic, 625 East Twenty-first; George Coleman, 20, teamster; Mrs. Vera Boothby, 25, 585 Main street; Raymond May, 29, 412 Clinton street; Michael Showers, 20, shipworker; Joseph Stephenson, 36, waiter, 706 East Eighth street.

Flu Ban Off at Halsey.

HALSEY, Or., Nov. 18.—(Special).—All regular church services were held in this town yesterday and school opened today. Dr. H. Garinjobst, city health officer, announces that the regulations regarding influenza will be rigorously enforced. No children with possible symptoms of influenza will be allowed to remain in school and all people so affected will be required to stay away from church and public gatherings.

Linn County Lifts Epidemic Ban.

LEBANON, Or., Nov. 18.—(Special).—The ban on all public meetings has been lifted in Linn County. The ban, which has been light, not more than half a dozen in this part of the county, and no new cases have developed in the last week.

Woodburn to Lift Ban Thursday.

WOODBURN, Or., Nov. 18.—(Special).—To be perfectly safe from the ravages of the Spanish influenza, the Woodburn authorities refused to lift the ban until next Thursday morning, when schools will begin and public gatherings be allowed. The few cases left in town are of a mild form.

GUARD QUARREL QUIETS

GOV. WITHYCOMBE APPOINTS ARBITRATION COMMITTEE.

Expenditure of \$1000 Authorized to Fit Up Atkinson School as Company Headquarters.

Settlement of the controversy between the Multnomah Guard and the new Oregon National Guard, concerning the occupation of the Armory, will be attempted by a committee, named yesterday by Governor Withycombe, when members of both organizations appeared before him at Salem. The committee named comprises Sheriff Hurlburt, chairman; Colonel Campbell and Lieutenant-Colonel Bowman of the Multnomah Guard; Adjutant-General Beebe, Colonel North and Major J. Francis Drake, of the Oregon National Guard.

At the conference Adjutant-General Beebe disclaimed all intention of inconveniencing the Multnomah Guard. It was suggested, and received with favor by both parties, that the Atkinson School, near the Armory, be secured as headquarters for the Multnomah Guard, while the Armory be shared for drill, with three nights a week allotted to each regiment.

Governor Withycombe said he would authorize the expenditure of \$1000 to equip quarters for the Multnomah Guard, subject to the approval of Major Drake. It was definitely agreed that the Multnomah Guard Band is to retain its present location in the Armory, where the unit has spent \$650 to equip quarters.

Members of the Multnomah Guard who attended the conference were Sheriff Hurlburt, commander-in-chief; Colonel Campbell, Lieutenant-Colonel Bowman, and Captain Howell. State Senator-elect, they presented Governor Withycombe with petitions, liberally signed, praying for a reconsideration of the order to evacuate the Armory.

SUBMARINE SINKING SEEN

F. W. Kellogg, of San Francisco, Returns From Trip to Europe.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18.—F. W. Kellogg, publisher of the San Francisco Call, returned today from a trip along the coast. Kellogg is a member of a party of 12 American editors, guests of the British government. His experiences, he said, included a view of what he said he believed was the last sinking of a German submarine in a battle with the American destroyer Fox. The submarine attacked one of the vessels of the convoy in which the party was returning to the United States.

The party was received by King George and Queen Mary and Mr. Kellogg had a conversation with the Premier, Lloyd George, in the same room and seated at the same table at which sat King George III and Lord North when they decided upon the action which precipitated the American revolution.

Rev. J. B. Janes, pastor of the Bethel A. M. E. Church, has been named chairman of the committee on arrangements. Efforts are being made to bring together fraternal, social, religious and patriotic organizations for the jubilee. A parade will be held with banners and floats depicting the first of the negro race brought to America and landed at Jamestown, Va.

GRAIN SUPPLIES ARE HUGE

Total of 114,041,000 Bushels Are Stored in Primary Elevators.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—Supplies of grain held in elevators, which will be available to meet the needs of this country, as well as to aid Europe, are far greater than they were a year ago. Director-General McAdoo today made public a report from the operating division of the Railroad Administration showing that on November 9 there was on hand in the primary elevators 114,041,000 bushels of grain, as compared with 17,356,000 bushels on the same day in 1917. Wheat and corn supplies especially showed an increase over a year ago. There were 3,787,000 bushels of corn in the elevators on November 9, as compared with 157,000 bushels a year ago; 34,433,000 bushels of wheat, as compared with 5,029,000 in 1917; and 15,841,000 bushels of oats, as against 12,160,000 last year.

Packers Ask Employes' Release.

CHICAGO, Nov. 18.—The immediate release of all packing house employes now in any branch of war service was urgently requested today by the Food Administration in an appeal to the War Department, according to a telegram received from Washington by E. C. Brown, president of the Chicago Live Stock Exchange.

OVERCOATS

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Corbett Bldg. 5th & Morrison

STARTING TOMORROW

MITCHELL LEWIS Star of "The Barrier" "The Bar Sinister" "NINE TENTHS OF THE LAW" A powerful drama of the North Woods

NEGROES TO CELEBRATE Anniversary of Landing of Race in America is Occasion.

A Ter-Centenary Jubilee is being planned by Portland colored people in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the landing of their race on the shores of America.

Rev. J. B. Janes, pastor of the Bethel A. M. E. Church, has been named chairman of the committee on arrangements. Efforts are being made to bring together fraternal, social, religious and patriotic organizations for the jubilee. A parade will be held with banners and floats depicting the first of the negro race brought to America and landed at Jamestown, Va.

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