

DUAL PHONES APPARENTLY ARE DOOMED

GOVERNMENT WORKING TO ABOLISH COMPETITION BETWEEN COMPANIES.

LA GRANDE AFFECTED BY CHANGES THAT WILL COME

Where Two Exchanges Are Covering Same Field It Is Likely Burleson Will Order Discontinuance Of One—Duplication In All Lines To Be Eliminated.

Since the government took over the telegraph and telephone lines of the country there has been a movement on foot to abolish competition in telephone service. It seems that the government views dual telephone exchanges as unnecessary and probably will insist in a short time that one exchange do the work of both, thus releasing men, women and material for war work.

This comes home to Union county in a forceful manner for there are two exchanges operating in this county. The Home Independent Telephone company, which bought out the Bell system here several years ago, and the Union County Co-operative company which was organized, financed and constructed by mostly farmers in the valley have each an extensive plant, and from indications it is only a matter of time when Uncle Sam will step in and do some adjusting and force all communication over one exchange.

Which exchange will be swallowed is a mooted question. Mr. Crow, manager of the Home Company, will have nothing to say on the matter and neither will the management of the Co-operative. The position of both parties is eminently correct, for in reality they are now a part of the government system and have no say coming.

It is up to Uncle Sam to do as he thinks best, but the fact remains that there is a good deal of guessing going on as to results.

Among the orders issued by the government to exchange managers appears the following important paragraph:

"To proceed as expeditiously as possible with the plans heretofore instituted for consolidating and unifying the telephone plants and properties. Plans for consolidating the plants and properties, where consolidation is manifestly desired by the public, where it can be effected on fair terms and in accordance with the law, should be formulated as soon as practicable and submitted to this department."

ALL YANKEE BOYS ARE "BIG BROTHERS"

By Miss Gladys McIntyre.
Salvation Army Doughgirl in France.
WITH THE AMERICAN BOYS AT THE FRONT, Aug. 10.—(By Mail.)—Friendships are a big problem. At least, they are out here on the front. It's hard to keep from letting your interest in people worry you.

It has been harder than usual for us, I think, because our acquaintances are continually changing. Troops are always on the move, and we have stayed quite a long time in each of the locations we were in. So we never have with any regiment permanently, usually just long enough to make a bunch of good friends from whom we hated to part.

We have almost decided that it does not pay to make friends. Not that they are not wonderful to have and a lot of joy, but that it is so hard to see them go, especially when you know the danger they are in all the time.

It's strange the way we make friends out here, anyway. When a new outfit comes in town, we are always feeling as though the bottom has dropped out of things, naturally, because our old friends have pulled out the night before. Then a few of the new ones will drop around the kitchen, and ask if there is anything they can do to help us.

That is where friends are first made, usually in the kitchen or at the woodpile. Sometimes it's over the stove, where the boys ask us to let them dip doughnuts. Then there is usually a gradual growth without any effort on anyone's part, and sometimes the acquaintances become friends and others just stay acquaintances.

Usually it's the home-folky sort that comes around and makes friends. They usually want to talk, and it seems to do them good just to get stories told to some one. We always like to listen. It never takes them long to come around to the girls they left behind, and they always tell us of them.

You cannot help liking these chaps who want to talk of their sweethearts. They're always devoted, and they carry pictures with them, which they always like to show. It is interesting to see the kinds of girls they have all

picked out, and they are never just what you expect.

These men usually take a big brotherly interest in us, and their attention is sometimes amusing. I've had as many as five lectures from different "big brothers" in one day, all of them keen to advise us.

Usually, these "big brothers" tell us to go home. They say it is no place for us, so near the lines, though they all tell us how much they enjoy us there, and how much they like doughnuts. But they would rather have us home, they say, and get along without doughnuts.

But we think otherwise. We want to stay.

When we left our old division we thought we had lost all the friends we had on this side of the world. If we were ever discouraged, it was then. Irene and I were both enthusiastic to get a new hut started, but we could not forget the friends we had left, and who were to go soon to a far more dangerous part of the line.

We still miss them terribly, but a very few days has shown us that there are prospective "big brothers" everywhere. We had scarcely moved into our new quarters when the most fatherly gray-haired old colonel you ever saw came in to see us. He offered us any help at his command, and comes in twice every day to see that all is going well. He is almost too fatherly in the way he hovers over us, for he puts restrictions on where we can go. But they are for our good, and we appreciate his interest. A sergeant soon turned up, with a wife at home and a faculty for housework, and the "big brothers" are growing in number.

Americans are pretty generally of the "big brother" type, we have found.

OVER THE NORTHWEST

Peers of the state treasurer's office, including those on inheritances and on interest on deposits, are expected to increase over \$100,000 in the next two years, bringing their aggregate up to \$305,500, according to a statement filed by State Treasurer Kay with the tax commission. Expenses for the office for the two years are estimated at \$35,900.

Applications have been filed with State Engineer Lewis by C. B. McConnell, of Burns, representing the Jarney Basin Development company, for the appropriation of 166 second feet of water from the Blitzen river and 306 second feet of water from the Silvies River for the irrigation of the lands in the bed of Malheur Lake and lands adjoining. These applications are filed in connection with the application submitted some time ago to the state land board for the reclamation by drainage of the bed of Malheur Lake. The project, according to the application filed, will involve an area of 5,300 acres, a large part of which now lies in the bed of Malheur Lake, and must first be drained, and the remainder lies along the border of the lake, which will be irrigated through the construction of canals from the Blitzen and Silvies rivers. The estimated cost of the irrigation features of the project is \$255,000.

J. Ragsdale, who operates a dextral dryer on the Alsea River, says there has been a big demand for his product, but is experiencing difficulty in filling orders on account of the scarcity of pickers. Mr. Ragsdale uses a hop dryer and has exploded the idea that the leaves of digitals must be dried slowly in the shade.

Only one accident was fatal out

Matron's House Dress of Gingham



Now is the day of all sorts of service suits—overettes, war overalls, coat and breeches, mountain suits and others that mark the departures of women into new fields of work and into new kinds of convenient clothes for outdoor and even for indoor wear. Meantime the reliable and time-honored gingham house dress is a service suit that shows no sign of losing its popularity.

Gingham and gingham patterns in other materials lend in point of popularity—percale and some heavier cottons; chambrays and cotton crepes—even printed lawns and voiles have a place in this considerable company of house dresses and designs are varied to suit the ages of wearers and the sort of service the dress is to give. In the picture a gingham dress designed for a matronly wearer is equal to all the emergencies of an average day at home. It is a one-piece dress easily put on, has jacket fronts on the bodice with vest and collar in white figure. There are pockets at the side that prove to be both practical and decorative. They are faced with plique and turned back in two tabs fastened down with buttons.

Old-fashioned rickrack braid has come back into favor as a trimming for house dresses and is also used on afternoon frocks of organdie. Combinations of plain and plaid ginghams are and always will be good in dresses of the kind shown above. For kitchen work designers make shorter sleeves and plain waists joined to skirts with wide belts. The frock illustrated will do for marketing. Because gingham is used for aprons and house dresses is no reason to infer that it is not made up into frocks for other wear. Hand-some gingham frocks, made up with organdie collars and cuffs or with fine Swiss embroideries are taking the place of silks in many a war-time wardrobe. They do not suffer by comparison, for they are smart, with a favor of their own.

Julia Bostwick

of 591 reported to the industrial accident commission for the week ending August 8, inclusive. John M. Ferson, Portland shipbuilder, was the victim of the one fatal accident. A total of 521 of the accidents reported were subject to the provisions of the workmen's compensation act.

A carload of matches on a north-bound freight train caught fire Tuesday afternoon when the train was switching in the Southern Pacific yards in Albany. The fire did not spread so rapidly as the nature of the contents of the car would indicate, for the boxes were packed closely.

An extraordinary run of Chinook salmon is on at Weddaburn and Gold Beach, in Rogue river, where 50 boats are taking from 35 to 50 fish nightly. The small salmon run has passed and it is very sel-

dom any of the boats take fish lighter than 30 pounds.

Albany Democrat: The rainbow car from Bonneville hatcher stopped in Albany this morning for a little while and Game Warden E. E. Jawker and Russell Gott were on hand and secured five cans of beautiful rainbow trout which they planted in nearby streams.

Harrisburg Bulletin: Some of the threshing machine operators about Harrisburg found the grain crop so poor that they were forced to change their list of prices for threshing by the bushel, or some changed to so much per hour, after



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finding they were running behind as much as \$20 a day. The new order made it very expensive for some farmers whose grain was nearly all straw. Threshing coal one nearby farmer 65 cents per bushel for his wheat. Another paid \$40 to get 100 bushels of wheat threshed and the threshing machine owners were not declared in the profiteer class either.

Salem Statesman: Ten large locust trees, some of them 40 years old, on the farm of Governor Withycombe, near Hillsboro, will probably be taken by the government to be used as trunnels in shipbuilding. The trees are highly prized by the governor, but he says he will part with them gladly if they are of value to the government, that he would as willingly part with the whole farm under similar conditions. An agent was at the governor's office yesterday to negotiate for the trees. They are located on the Redwood farm.

The law requiring county courts to maintain sign posts at cross roads was repealed by the 1917 legislature and no substitute act was passed, points out Attorney-General Brown in an opinion to the secretary of the state highway commission. Travelers have made many complaints about no guiding signs at cross roads, and it is probable that the next legislature will be requested to pass a law requiring that such signs be put up and maintained.

Oregonian: Forest Examiner Starker and Logging Engineer Nelson have just returned to the district office of the forest service after a three-weeks' inspection trip to the Santiam National Forest. They appraised 300,000,000 feet of Douglas fir on some 8,000 acres along Blowout creek. They report general rains throughout that section and consequently less danger of forest fires.

Because of the unfavorable season the flax crop to be harvested in the state's plant at the penitentiary will not total more than 250 tons, according to Governor Withycombe, if the season had been favorable the crop would have been at least 800 tons. The governor attributes the shortage entirely to the dry season, all of the fields having been well farmed.

Bay City: Messrs. Hayes and Blanchard have invested in a cruiser adorned with a spacious cabin which they will use in deep sea trolling off the coast at the mouth of the Columbia river. The boat is 35 feet long and equipped with a 20 h.p. engine. The owners expect to leave this week.

Second hand school books taken on exchange, or for cash, at Newlin Book & Stationery Co. 8-24tf

Observer advertising will bring results.

Paper Show.
It is always a problem to keep-add papers and magazines looking neat in the basement. Make a rack on the order of a swing shelf, having the shelf in slits about two inches wide and three inches apart. The papers can then be tied up without lifting from the shelf. After they are tied the bundles can be put in a corner ready to sell.

No Snap.
"Life is not merely tranquilly drawing one's breath," says the London Telegraph. Bet your boots it isn't! It's hustling like the dickens so that one can draw a few dollars at the end of the week to meet one's expense. —Boston Transcript.

The soda water days are still here. If you should drop in at Silverthorn's fountain and see how busy Al Cain is putting up those delicious sodas, you would think summer had just begun. 8-28tf

Silverthorn's
FAMILY DRUG STORE
LA GRANDE, OREGON.
Job printing. The Observer, Main 37.

FIGURE ON MONUMENT WORK

F. M. Berry Will Be Glad to Meet Those Needing Service.

I will be in La Grande for several days while erecting a vault in the cemetery and will be glad to figure with anyone who has monument work in contemplation. We do all kinds of monument and vault work. Orders will be taken now for fall delivery.—F. M. Berry, of the Berry Monument Works, of Walla Walla. Call at the Foley hotel either in person or telephone. 8-27-5t

New and second hand school books for sale at Newlin Book & Stationery Co. 8-24tf

Fat Not Used.
Burma is one of the few lands in which fat is not used for lighting or industrial purposes.

Don't forget that all films are developed and printed the day you bring us the films, if left by 10 o'clock in the morning at Silverthorn's. 8-28tf

Silverthorn's
FAMILY DRUG STORE
LA GRANDE, OREGON.

"ECONOMY"

It is truly astonishing what we do with an old suit, by Cleaning and Mending—produce in appearance the original suit; how little it costs. Try it. We also have the best lines of Tailored Suits.

Zwiefel Tailoring, A. B. Rogers
Foley Hotel Building, Adams Avenue.

ADVERTISING IS INSURANCE

An advertiser's advertisement is his voluntary agreement to do certain things. Good business policy, law and public opinion require that an advertisement-agreement be fulfilled. This serves as a protection to the buyer of advertised goods.

If, by chance, you have an experience with the deceptive selling practices or misleading advertising, please report it to us.

School Shoe Time!

Boys' Guaranteed Tips Shoes, button and lace; Boys' English Last Shoes, both black and brown; Boys' Army Last Shoes, Prices \$3.00 to \$5.00.

Growing Girls' Brown and Black Lace Shoes, good school shoes, sizes 2 1/2 to 7; prices \$4.00 to \$5.00

Misses' Brown, Black and White Top Shoes, lace and button, sizes 1 1/2 to 2; prices \$2.50 to \$4.50

Children's Sturdy School Shoes, in all styles and prices.

L. J. French Shoe Company

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For Your Sunday Dinner

Watermelons and Cantaloupes on Ice, Fancy Peaches, Pears, Grapes, Grapefruit, Plums and Apples; Fresh Corn, Cucumbers, Egg Plant, Cabbage, Sweet Potatoes, String Beans, Tomatoes, Green Peppers.

This Store will be Closed All Day Monday, September 2, Labor Day.

WE CLOSE ALL DAY LABOR DAY, MONDAY, SEPT. 2.

Fancy Alberta Peaches \$1.25

- Green Peppers
- Cucumbers
- Pickling Spices
- Celery
- Egg Plant
- Carrots
- Turnips
- Cabbage
- Grapes
- Cantaloupes
- Watermelons

Lunch Goods for you Campers and Hunters. Home Cured Hams and Bacon.

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