

### NATION INVITED TO TAKE TELEPHONES

Government Ownership Would Cost Only \$900,000,000, Says Lewis.

### PROFITS IN WIRES CITED

United States Pays More for Talks at Distance Than Other Countries. Telegraph Rates Too High, Declares Representative.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Government ownership of the Nation's telephone lines would cost less than \$900,000,000 and would present no greater difficulties of financing than did the Panama Canal, Representative Lewis, of Maryland, told the House today in an exhaustive analysis of his proposal to have those lines operated by the Post-office Department.

"Investigation discloses that our telegraphic rates are the highest among all countries. The result of these abnormal rates is that we rank only 10th as a telegraph user. Against our conditions, it appears that our present average lower than other countries, that the number of letters is the highest in the world.

"Telegraph companies are lacking in institutional efficiency. The operation of a telegraph is loaded down with postal services and more than 50 of which would be added to the postal service, can be handled more efficiently by the duplication of the postal service in all important towns, the denial of the postal service and necessary points.

"The telegraph services are being declining institution and it would be unwise now to position it as a single service. To take over the telegraph lines alone and operate them merely as telegraph lines might result in postal bankruptcy.

"But our telephone tolls and long-distance telephone rates compare with those of other countries even less favorably than do our telegraph rates. It is not unfair or inaccurate to say that the American interurban telephone rates are the scandal of public service rates the world over. The American long distance telephone rates are the 13th place among 17 countries with regard to the lowness of these rates.

"Local rates of the Bell telephone monopoly are just as high as the average charge in other countries. While our postal rates give us the first rank in lowness of charges, this company ranks 14th among 17 countries. In fact, the telephone charges and we are one of three countries where the charge for a local call exceeds the letter postal rates, the other 15 countries giving a much lower similar telephone call than their letter rates.

"European cities pay less. In American cities, compared with Continental cities, are about three times as high. For example, in New York \$400 calls, about 15 a day under measured service, cost more than the four unlimited yearly rates of London, Paris, Berlin and Stockholm together. For like services, Baltimore people pay more than the rates of London and Paris combined, and Washington pays as much as the five cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Auckland, Tokio and Copenhagen combined. In postal telephone countries the local toll tariffs tend to run about one-half the charge for a letter, while here it runs with the streetcar fare and sometimes exceeds it, and it is three times the letter rate.

"While competition does not supply a remedy because it divides the service and necessitates the payment for two telephones, yet it throws an interesting sidelight on the tendency of a private monopoly to push up the rate.

"Monopoly Means High Rate. Thus, 50 of the great American cities, 24 averaging 342,488 in population, pay an average annual telephone rate of \$23 under competition; while the other 36 cities, averaging only 158,629 in population, without competition, pay an average rate of \$42. Since competition will augment the total cost of operation, it is apparent how private monopoly and high rates go hand in hand.

"It will be unnecessary to take over the telegraph lines here (capitalized at \$240,000,000), as both kinds of communication can be handled on the telephone wires, which the telegraph wires in mileage and geographical distribution.

"The cost of acquiring the telephone networks is indicated at something less than \$200,000,000, for which it is proposed to issue 3 per cent bonds, payable in 50 years. It is calculated that the postal system, by superimposing the telegraph service on the telephone lines at half present telegraph rates, may net some \$50,000,000 annually from that traffic alone, which with the present profits of the telephones, and after deduction of interest on the bonds and depreciation, would supply the department with a large surplus for extensions and other purposes."

**DOCTOR BUYS HOLSTEINS**  
Owner of Ranch Near Langlois to Establish Thoroughbred Herd.

LANGLOIS, Or., Dec. 22.—(Special.)—Dr. J. R. Wetherbee, of the Star ranch, two miles south of here, returned Sunday from a tour to a number of cities and farming communities of the Northwest in search for cattle with which to stock his Curry County dairy farm. Dr. Wetherbee brought back four yearling Holstein-Friesian heifers, which cost him \$1500.

Dr. Wetherbee plans to change his entire herd of nearly 200 head of cattle, and eliminate every grade and other strain except the Holstein-Friesian. While passing through here he stated he will bring more thoroughbred cattle in next Spring and thus start breeding at once.

**PILGRIMS' DAY OBSERVED**  
Two Hundred Ninety-Third Anniversary of Landing Celebrated.

BOSTON, Dec. 22.—The 293rd anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims was commemorated yesterday in the Old North Church on Salem street, the Rev. Dr. George Hodges, of Cambridge, described the spirit of the pilgrim fathers as the American spirit of individualism. It is the spirit, he said, which protests against monopoly in business, politics or religion.

Christmas special, Order of Good-Fellows at Globe Theater, commencing Wednesday.—Adv.

### NEW PRESIDENT OF CABABAO CLUB, WHO, IT IS UNDERSTOOD, HAS BEEN TOLD HE OUGHT TO RESIGN.



REAR-ADMIRAL THOMAS B. HOWARD.

### REBUKE IS ISSUED

Wilson Seeks to Recall Ideals of Army and Navy Men.

### "FUN" NOT APPRECIATED

President in Formal Letter Requests "Very Serious Reprimand" to Carabao Officers—Opinion Is Records Not Mailed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—President Wilson made public today a letter addressed to Secretaries Garrison and Daniels, respectively, requesting that "a very serious reprimand" be administered to those Army and Navy officers who participated in the recent dinner of the military order of the Carabao, at which the Administration's Philippine and other policies were satirized. The letter follows:

"The officers who were responsible for the programme of the evening are certainly deserving of a very serious reprimand, which I hereby request to be administered, and I cannot rid myself of a feeling of great disappointment that the general body of officers assembled at the dinner have greeted the carrying out of such a programme with apparent indifference to the fact that it violated some of the most dignified and sacred traditions of the service.

"I am told that the songs and other amusements of the evening were intended and regarded as 'fun.' What are we to think of officers of the Army and Navy of the United States who think it 'fun' to bring their official superiors into ridicule and to cast upon the Government which they are sworn to serve with unquestioning loyalty, into contempt? If this is their idea of fun, what is their idea of duty? It is not to hold their loyalty above all silly efferevances of childish wit, what about their profession do they hold sacred?

**Ideals Are Recalled.**  
"My purpose, therefore, in administering this reprimand is to recall the men who are responsible for this lowering of standards of their ideals; to remind them of the high conscience with which they ought to put duty above personal indulgence and to think of themselves as responsible men and trusted soldiers, even while they are amusing themselves as diners-out."

Secretaries Garrison and Daniels decided to administer the reprimand by transmitting a copy of the President's letter to each member of the entertainment committee.

Secretary Garrison immediately sent this memorandum to Major-General Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the Army:

"It is hereby ordered that the officers of the United States Army who were on the dinner committee and who were therefore responsible for the programme of entertainment at the recent dinner of the Military Order of the Carabao, be reprimanded in pursuance of the communication of the President to me, copy herewith. The form that the reprimand should take should be furnished to each of said officers a copy of the letter from the President."

**Daniels May Act Today.**  
Secretary Daniels probably will issue a similar order tomorrow, making the Presidential rebuke effective so far as Navy officers are concerned.

It is understood that the Secretary of the Navy has suggested that Rear-Admiral Thomas B. Howard, who presided at the dinner of the Carabao, resign the position of chief of the society because of the conduct of the Army and Navy officers at the dinner last Thursday. Rear-Admiral Howard was born at Galena, Ill., in 1854. He held Secretary Daniels that he had since "fanned" himself in the insurance business for 13 years without hearing any objection.

The members of the dinner committee on the part of the Army who will receive copies of President Wilson's communication are:

Major Lawson M. Fuller, retired; Major Francis J. Koester, Captain Warren Dean, Captain Frank T. Hines, Major James E. Normoyle, Major Edgar Russell, Brigadier-General Frank McIntyre and Colonel F. O. E. Holstean.

Rear-Admiral Thomas B. Howard (chairman), Major-General William P. Biddle, U. S. M. C., Captain W. P. Shoemaker, Surgeon Frank E. McCullough, Lieutenant-Commander Frank E. Hildgely, Paymaster Victor S. Jackson.

**Reiler Seems Immune.**  
The only member of the committee not in the service is Dr. Joseph M. Hel-

### BRIBE OVERHEARD ON WIRE

Notes on Telephone Talk Testimony in Mississippi Trial.

VICKSBURG, Miss., Dec. 22.—Testimony purporting to have been obtained by means of a telephone device was introduced today at the trial of State Senator Hobbs, charged with soliciting and accepting a bribe in connection with a bill providing for the creation of a new county in Mississippi. This testimony tended to corroborate that given by Stephen Castleman, who swore that he had given Hobbs \$200 as a bribe.

W. L. Douglas, who said he recorded conversations between Hobbs and Castleman, read to the jury what he said were notes of these conversations. According to these notes, Castleman was willing to give a bribe and Hobbs to receive it.

**"DRY" PETITION GROWING**  
More Than 65,000 Signatures to Request for Amendment.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 22.—Fred W. Wheeler, chairman of the "California Dry in 1914" campaign committee, announced today that more than 65,000 signatures, or more than twice the number needed, have been obtained to the initiative petition asking that the question of a constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture, sale or use of liquor be placed upon the ballot at next year's state election.

Of the 65,000 signatures secured, 36,000 were obtained in Los Angeles. Northern California is opposed to the campaign.

**BALLOON GOES 1738 MILES**  
German Makes World's Distance in Spherical Bag.

BERLIN, Dec. 22.—Herr Kevelin, a German balloonist, who with two passengers ascended from Bitterfeld, Prussian Saxony, in the balloon Duesburg on December 1, reported today that he had descended at Perm, a town in European Russia near the Siberian frontier, thus establishing a world's distance and duration record for spherical balloons.

The Duesburg was in the air 87 hours and traveled 1738.3 miles.

**NOTED DIVA ASKS DIVORCE**  
Schumann-Heink Files Suit Against William Rapps, Third Mate.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Suit for divorce was filed here today by Madame Ernestine Schumann-Heink, the opera singer, against her husband, William Rapp. Desertion is the charge. They were married here in May, 1905, and the singer since has made Chicago her residence. Rapp deserted her two years ago, she alleges. They had no children.

Temperamental and family differences are said to have estranged the Rapps. Madame Schumann-Heink had eight children by her two former marriages.

### FUEL BOOKS SHOW WEIGHTS JUGGLED

Duty Rebates Paid on Coal Not Debited to Barges at Canadian Mines.

SCALES EXPERT TESTIFIES

Government Agent Says Customs Rec. Funded on Sworn Statement of Officers of Company at San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22.—Books of the Western Fuel Company show that in 99 per cent of cases more coal was discharged from the company's barges into American steamers than was loaded on the barges at Canadian mines. On the figures for coal discharged from the barges and not for the coal the barges received, affidavits were presented to the customs authorities and drawbacks or rebates on duties that had been collected were obtained.

Such was the testimony today of W. D. Tidwell, special agent of the United States "Department" in the trial of eight indicted directors and employees of the company for conspiracy to defraud. Mr. Tidwell's testimony was based on affidavits which he had compiled from the Western Fuel Company's books and records.

**Overweight Rebates Paid.**  
One case was cited in which, on April 20, 1906, a barge discharged into Western steamers 100 tons of coal, but the company's books showed was debited to that barge and a drawback was collected on the debited amount plus the 60 tons.

Mr. Tidwell testified that United States Army transports and revenue cutters had loaded coal from Western Fuel barges at various times; that the Government vessels had received more coal, according to the books, than the records showed had been loaded into the barges and that the Government had refunded customs duties for the larger amounts.

Refunds had been made, he said, on the sworn statements of James E. Smith, or some other named defendant, that the company's figures for the amounts discharged from the barges were correct.

According to Mr. Tidwell's testimony, between April 1, 1906, and December 31, 1912, the Western Fuel Company sold 2,156,215 long tons of foreign coal, which was in round numbers \$2,000 more than the company had received, plus what was on hand prior to the former date.

**Weight Expert Testifies.**  
Captain N. K. Willis, port captain for a Seattle firm at Nanaimo, B. C., and formerly in command of the coal barge Two Brothers, plying between Nanaimo and Seattle, was called to the stand in the afternoon to testify to the method of weighing coal at the Western Fuel Company's Canadian mines.

He was followed by W. J. Dougherty, chief weigher for the customs service at this port. Mr. Dougherty said there could not be more than 10 pounds difference between the weight of a cartload of coal as taken on a "rising balance" and a "ven beam," or when the balance was perfectly horizontal. He said the kind of scales used on the docks for weighing coal would register the weight of as small a quantity as five pounds.

David C. Norcross, secretary of the company, was on the stand again today for a short time to identify certain records of the handling of coal on which a refund of customs duties was collected.

**FAITH IN WIRELESS BIG**  
DE FOREST TELLS JURY HE BELIEVED IN RADIO TELEPHONE.

Invention Promised Much and Success Was Sincere Hope, Declares Man Who Developed Idea.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Lee De Forest had faith in the wireless telephone and was sincere in his belief of its success at the time he and others organized the Radio Wireless Telephone Company.

De Forest made this statement today to a jury in the Federal Court here. He is on trial with James D. Dunlop, Ethel M. Burlingame and Samuel Darby, charged with misuse of the mails to promote sales of the company stock. He was a witness for the defense.

De Forest told of the merits of the invention on which the organization of the Radio Company was based and asserted that wireless telephone communication was established between Milwaukee and Chicago and vice versa. Schumann-Heink and Chicago and vice versa. Schumann-Heink and Chicago and vice versa. Schumann-Heink and Chicago and vice versa.

De Forest explained that reasons "mainly mechanical," preventing the telephone from operating, were responsible for their not being sent. The witness conceded that the Radio Company had never yielded returns to the stockholders.

Questioned concerning the pamphlets issued by the company, De Forest said he did not think the assertions were exaggerated.

"The telephone promised much," he declared. The trial will be resumed tomorrow.

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