

RATE WAR PROMISED ON RETURN OF WIRES

Postal Telegraph Announces 20 Per Cent Cut.

W. U. SCHEDULE TO STAND

Prospect Is for Lively Fight for Business Following Government Re-linguishment of Systems.

NEW YORK, July 31.—When control of the telegraph systems of the country is formally relinquished by the government at midnight a reduction of 20 per cent in rates will be made immediately on the lines of the Postal company, but the Western Union will retain the schedule of rates in effect after Postmaster-General Burleson took control on April 1.

Clarence H. Mackay, president of the Postal, announced in a statement late today that the rate reduction would be made "in accordance with its promise to the public." He qualified the announcement, however, by saying that if expenses continued to mount charges might have to go with them.

Newcomb Carlisle, president of the Western Union, who also has been in charge of the cable systems controlled by the government, since last December, declared on the other hand: "We cannot see our way clear to do better than we are doing at this time."

Neither would discuss the possibility of a long-continued "rate war." In his announcement Mr. Mackay explained that the 20 per cent reduction represented the most liberal Postmaster-General Burleson put into effect, including leased-wire rates, and that the rates would be restored to what they were before the government took over the lines.

"In doing this," he said, "we wish to state that it is our intention to continue to increase it will be necessary for the company to ask the indulgence of the public in again advancing telegraph rates for the whole or part of this 20 per cent."

Present rates on night letters, he said, would not be disturbed, but probably would be reduced a little later. The head of the Postal company said the return of the wires to their owners marked the end of "a powerful effort by the postmaster-general and Bell Telephone-Western Union companies to eliminate the competition of the Postal Telegraph-Cable company."

Many Lines Unprofitable. In a statement on the stand of the Western Union, Mr. Carlisle said: "The Western Union wires reach 22,522 separate communities. The only other telegraph system reaches 1700 communities, or less than 8 per cent of the total number served by the Western Union. The offices in over 20,000 small communities exclusively served by our wires are unprofitable to the company, and such offices are essential to the country at large and must be maintained."

Kinds of Western Union employees for higher wages, he said, were recognized, and they represented 66 per cent of the total cost of providing the service.

HELENA, Mont., July 31.—Telephone lines operating in Montana must soon raise the rate of about 200,000,000 yen with which to repay all of Japan's loans to China. At the current rate of exchange this amounts to about \$200,000,000 Mexican, which means a pro rata, self-imposed tax of 20 cents on every Chinese in the country.

The chambers of commerce, guilds, students' unions, and labor organizations are joining behind this movement of driving Japan out of China by paying China's debts.

The idea of raising a fund for patriotic purposes originated with the Shantung delegation which went to Peiping in the latter part of June to urge President Hsu to instruct the Chinese delegates at Paris not to sign the peace treaty. During the course of the interview it was suggested to the delegates that China could do nothing to Japan if Shantung until the debt of 20,000,000 yen was wiped out. The delegate replied that if the government was unable to pay its debts, the people of the province of Shantung were ready to make any sacrifice to win back their liberty.

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Reserve Officers' Training Gets Finishing Touches.

10,000 ROUNDS DAILY SHOT

Two Oregon Men Win Places on Rifle Team to Compete in National Matches in East.

NEW BOX PLANT PLANNED

Klamath Company Acquires 70-Acre Tract for Factory.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., July 31.—(Special.)—Klamath Falls is assured of another large box factory in the community. The Pelican Bay Lumber company purchased a 70-acre tract lying between the sawmill and box factory owned by the Klamath Manufacturing company at Shippington and the Pelican Bay Lumber company.

COUNTY WILL CELEBRATE

Grays Harbor to Roast Steers for Peace and Welcome Barbecue.

ABERDEEN, Wash., July 31.—(Special.)—Two 1500-pound steers will be roasted for the combined peace and welcome celebration of Grays Harbor county, which will be held at Pacific beach August 10. "Sunny Jim" Cooper, famous as a barbecue artist, will have charge of the roasting. Coffee will be served free.

FIREMEN PLAN TO STRIKE

Everett City Department Demands Increase in Wages.

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SHANTUNG RAISING FUNDS

People Propose to Pay Back 20,000,000 Yen Which Japan Advanced.

SHANGHAI, China, July 5.—The people of Shantung are raising a salvation fund to pay back the 20,000,000 yen which Japan has advanced on a railroad of the province. Some time ago Japan, knowing of China's inability to pay her debts, expressed her willingness to cancel the Shantung railroad agreement if China returned what she had borrowed with the road as a guarantee.

ORDINANCE HELD FAULTY

Salem Mayor Says Recent Measure Perpetuates Officer.

SALEM, Or., July 31.—(Special.)—Mayor Otto J. Wilson has vetoed the ordinance passed by the council recently providing for a purchasing department for the city and naming Earl Race, city recorder, as purchasing agent.

MEDIATION BOARD DESIRED

Salem Seeks Establishment of Labor Appeal Body.

SALEM, Or., July 31.—(Special.)—Establishment of a local system of mediation of all differences between Salem labor and Salem employers is the subject of a meeting to be held here tomorrow night.

JAPANESE MUST PAY TAX

License Fee for Fishing in California Held Collectible.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., July 31.—Allen Japanese may be required to pay a \$20 license tax on aliens for engaging in the business of fishing in California, regardless of a clause in the treaty with Japan which provides that they shall not be charged a higher tax than that assessed against a citizen of the United States, according to a ruling received today from U. S. Webb, attorney-general.

REFINERY TO BE ENLARGED

Honolulu Company to Extend Plant Honouliuli Company to Extend Plant

HONOLULU, T. H., July 31.—The directors of the Sugar Factors company, Ltd., announced today that they were considering the enlargement of the company's refinery at Crockett, Cal., with facilities for handling the entire Hawaiian sugar crop.

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Manhattan Shirts, New Patterns and Fabrics



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The Men's Store for Quality and Service Gasco Building

Notice to Subscribers

Under authority of the Postmaster General, on account of recent increases in wages to employes, totaling for the State of Oregon upwards of \$225,000.00 and for the City of Portland \$152,000.00, certain changes in exchange rates have been approved and made effective July 29, 1919, for the State of Oregon.

The changes in rates apply particularly to residence service, changes having been made in the principal business rates May 1, 1919.

All new business taken on and after July 29th will be at the new rates and bills to present subscribers for the month of August will be rendered at the new rates.

The increased rates will yield an annual revenue upward of \$250,000.00, but as the increase in wages is upwards of \$225,000.00, of which increase \$152,000.00 goes to the City of Portland, the net return to the Company under the rates now made effective is approximately 2 1/2 per cent on the valuation of its property at \$13,464,000.00, as found by the Public Service Commission.

The new schedule of rates is identical with the one approved by the Postmaster-General for the State of Washington, which has been in effect since March 1, 1919.

The rates are the same in both states for exchanges that are comparable and the rates for Portland are the same as for Seattle.

We believe that no proof as to the advanced cost of living and the general high costs prevailing for labor and materials is necessary and that the telephone-using public will accept this increase in rates in the same spirit of fairness and consideration as it has the advances in almost every other necessity in these unusual times.

The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co.

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Positively the last week of the Big Sale at Blank's, 360 Morrison. All of the Sample Cloak Co.'s beautiful stock will be sold this week at prices that will astonish you.

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