

WASHINGTON PHONE PROBE IS ORDERED

Valuation and Rates to Be Investigated.

COMPLAINTS ARE FILED

King County Legislative Federation and Women's Civic Club Want Lower Charges.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 21.—(Special.)—A thorough valuation and rate investigation of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company and the Home Telephone & Telegraph company in Washington will be made immediately, according to complaint filed here today by the department of public works of Washington.

The investigation comes as a result of the petition of the King County Legislative Federation and the Women's Civic club of Seattle, requesting lower telephone rates. In connection with the filing of this petition and the complaint filed by the department of public works, made the following statement and explanation:

"When the petition of the two clubs referred to was filed some weeks ago, it was realized by the department that no effective result could be attained and no effective order made with reference to the rates of these companies without a thorough valuation and rate investigation."

Reasonableness Is Challenged.

"The public service commission law, under which this department operates, prescribes a method of procedure whereby the rates of telephone as well as other public utility companies can be reduced or changed by the department. This procedure is by the filing of a complaint signed by the mayor, council or commission of the city or town in which the company complained of is doing business, or by not less than 25 patrons, consumers or purchasers of the utility product or service, or signed by the department and filed upon its own motion; the holding of a public hearing or hearings after due notice to the parties, and the making of written findings of fact and a formal order."

"We have prepared and served upon the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company and the Home Telephone & Telegraph company, this formal complaint wherein we have challenged the reasonableness of all rates, rules and regulations of these companies."

"The department has a competent, though limited number, of experienced valuation and rate engineers and accountants, who have been instructed to proceed at once with the field work, examining the books and records of the companies and preparing a detailed report thereon."

Valuation Task Large.

"It has been several years since a valuation was made of the telephone properties of these companies in this state and it will be necessary to bring that valuation down to date, adding all additions and betterments and subtracting property which is no longer used in public service, as the only property considered by this department in the fixing of a rate based on the making of valuations is that property used and useful in serving the public."

"The magnitude of our task must be apparent when it is realized that the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company maintains exchanges and lines in practically every city or town in this state, and that, contrary to the belief of many, the work of these engineers and accountants is not a mere formal thing wherein the capital stock of the company is taken as a rate base, but a detailed study is made of the entire plant without any consideration of the capitalization or bonded debt of the company. In other words, our valuation is a valuation of physical property used and useful in serving the public, and rates are fixed so as to give a reasonable return upon that physical valuation as represented in dollars."

KENTUCKY EX-JUDGE FREE

Fess Whittaker, Accused of Accepting Bribe, Acquitted.

WHITESBURG, Ky., Jan. 21.—(Special.)—A verdict of acquittal was returned by a jury brought from Perry county in the case of the commonwealth against Fess Whittaker, former county judge and popular citizen, on the charge of accepting a bribe from William J. Bates, confined in jail on a charge of murder last year. Bates was released from jail.

Fess Whittaker won a remarkable campaign two years ago when he was elected county judge by a big majority while serving a six-month sentence in the county jail on a misdemeanor charge. He was defeated, however, in the August primary and later became an independent candidate for sheriff. Again he went down in defeat. He probably will be a candidate for congress in the tenth Kentucky district this fall. Whittaker was tried on a whiskey transporting charge this week, fined heavily and given a 30-day jail sentence.

HUSBAND FATALLY SHOT

Stenographer Also Killed by Woman Who Hid in Office.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 21.—Oscar Roster, owner and manager of the Roster Advertising agency and his stenographer, Mildred G. Reckitt, today were fatally shot by the former's wife. The shooting was in Roster's office while he and his stenographer were alone in the front room. Jealousy, the police said, was responsible.

After the tragedy Mrs. Roster, screaming hysterically, begged the forgiveness of her husband. She had suspected the relations of her husband and his stenographer for some time, police declared, and had concealed herself in his office. After the shooting Mrs. Roster broke down, hurrying from the effects immediately.

"I shot him because I love him," she cried, police declared. Mrs. Roster was held by the police on a charge of attempted murder.

Medical Society Elects.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Jan. 21.—(Special.)—Dr. A. E. Anderson, of Aberdeen, has been elected president of the Grays Harbor County Medical society, succeeding Dr. H. C. Randolph. Dr. J. B. Kline was elected vice president, Dr. E. H. Ahlman, secretary and treasurer, and Dr. G. E. Chamberlain, censor. This office corresponds to president of the board of trustees. Dr. A. J. McIntyre was chosen to represent the society at the state convention at Spokane next June.

PREACHER WHO WILL BECOME PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HERE AND HIS WIFE, WHO IS A NOTED PIANIST.



Dr. Thomas J. Villers, Mrs. Thomas J. Villers.

Dr. Thomas J. Villers, who has been unanimously called to the pastorate of the First Baptist church (White Temple), is now engaged in closing up his pastorate at First church, Detroit, Mich., where for nearly nine years he has been in charge. He anticipates moving, with his wife and daughter, to this city the latter part of February.

Dr. Villers is one of the most widely-known preachers in the Baptist church and has held many high offices on the work of his new pastorate, now that he has accepted the call, although the kindness of the people with whom he has labored for so long has bound him to them in a very strong sense.

In telegrams and letters to members of the pulpits committee, of which H. W. Stone is chairman, Dr. Villers has expressed his appreciation of and interest in the Portland church and has said he is anxious to be here to take up the work of his new pastorate, now that he has accepted the call, although the kindness of the people with whom he has labored for so long has bound him to them in a very strong sense.

Mrs. Villers is an accomplished pianist and is characterized as one who is of great assistance to her husband in his pastoral work.

MEMORIAL TO BE BUILDING

CENTRALIA TO HAVE USEFUL MONUMENT TO MARTYRS.

Handsome and Dignified Structure Will Occupy Spacious Site With Landscape Setting.

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 21.—(Special.)—The memorial to Centralia in honor of the four service men killed in that city in the Armistice-day parade of 1919 will be in the form of a handsome and dignified building, suited to patriotic assemblages, on a site large enough to permit an appropriate setting in landscape architecture.

When the members of the American Legion, comrades of the murdered men, first talked of a memorial, several plans came under discussion. First was the idea of a monument, such as a granite shaft or a sculptured group, without any utilitarian purpose. Next was the idea of a building or group of buildings to be used as a home for the orphaned children of all dead service men. Third was the idea of a memorial hall of monumental design but having practical advantages of use by the legion and other patriotic organizations.

The memorial committee named by the state commander of the American Legion had to make choice and prepare the outlines of a fairly definite plan for presentation to the national convention for approval. The idea of a monument was rejected because it was felt that the money necessary for such a purpose could be used to better advantage in the building of a home for the orphaned children of all dead service men. The idea of a children's home, attractive to many members, also had to be abandoned for the reason that the legion had no means of providing for the heavy cost of maintenance. The decision then centered on the memorial building.

Plans for such a building were prepared by architects at the request of the legion memorial committee and it was on the showing of these plans that the legion national convention of 1921 made its appropriation of \$10,000 toward construction costs.

Wapato Lake Frozen.

GASTON, Or., Jan. 21.—(Special.)—Wapato lake is frozen over and yesterday afternoon several automobile loads of Pacific university students from Forest Grove came to an afternoon of skating. Last night there were many confires and much merriment on the lake until a late hour. The skating is pretty rough.

Dallas Marshal Re-elected.

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PARIS, Jan. 21.—The body of Mrs. Thomas S. Ryan, who died Thursday of poisoning, will be sent to the United States. It has been placed in the crypt of the American church pending funeral services either Monday or Tuesday. Her mother will accompany the body.

Mrs. Ryan, a California woman, known professionally as Miss Audrey Creighton, died from poison she swallowed while in the hotel room of her husband, a member of the Paris staff of the Chicago Tribune. She was taken into custody by the police.

Building Company Formed.

TOLEDO, Or., Jan. 21.—(Special.)—The Toledo Investment & Improvement corporation has been organized. The following officers and directors were elected: C. E. Hawkins, president; Ira Wade, vice-president; Peter Fredrick, secretary; Jay W. Dunn, treasurer; and Dean Johnson, P. W. Stephens and Fred Horning, directors. The corporation has been organized for the purpose of building a new hotel in Toledo.

RUPTURE EXPERT HERE

SEELY, FAMOUS IN THIS SPECIALTY, CALLED TO PORTLAND.

P. H. Seely of Chicago and Philadelphia, a noted rupture expert, will personally be at the Benson hotel and will remain in Portland this Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, January 23, 24, 25, 26, 27. Mr. Seely says: "The Spermatic Shield will not only retain any case of ruptured testicles, but it also prevents the testicles from coming out of the scrotum in ten days on the average case. Being a vast advancement over all former methods—exemplifying instantaneous effects—immediately applicable and withstanding any strain or position, no matter the size or location. Large or difficult cases, or factious, special requests (following operations) specially solicited. This instrument received the only award in England and in Spain, producing results without surgery, injections, medical treatments or prescriptions. Mr. Seely has documents from the United States government, Washington, D. C., for inspection. He will be glad to demonstrate without charge or fee if they desired. Business demands prevent stopping at any other place in this section."

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MATRON BEGINS DEFENSE

STATE ENDS CASE AGAINST MRS. FRANCES BIESECKER.

Head of Vancouver Jail Said to Have Left Keeping of Accounts to Subordinates.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 21.—(Special.)—The state today opening completed its case against Mrs. Frances Biesecker, formerly matron of the county jail, on a charge of grand larceny by "padding" the bills presented to the county for feeding the prisoners. Nelson Steele, chief deputy sheriff, testified regarding the method pursued by the defendant in making out her bills and presenting them, and how she kept account of the number of prisoners who plan to attend. The indications are, he said, that the attendance will be fully double that of last year.

At the introductory session a tractor will be disassembled, overhauled and discussed. The subjects for Tuesday's session include "Motors and Their Care" by H. W. Trisport; "Lubrication and Fuel" by W. A. Munro; and "Motor Troubles" by J. E. Badley, service manager for the Portland district for Cietrac tractors.

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LEGISLATIVE PLAN MEETS OPPOSITION

Eastern Washington to Fight Cut in Representation.

SPOKANE RAISES PROTEST

Proposal If Carried Into Effect Would Give King County Control of State, It Is Said.

SPOKANE, Wash., Jan. 21.—(Special.)—Eastern Washington will fight the initiative measure of State Senator Palmer, Seattle, to reduce the membership of the legislature and to redistrict the state on basis of population, although the constitution provides for reapportionment every five years. Fear of legislative dominance by King county makes eastern Washington willing to ignore the constitution.

Protests were raised in Spokane on the day it became known that Senator Palmer was preparing the measure, which would cut the number of senators from 42 to 21 and reduce the number of representatives from 37 to 63. Senators Groff and Westfall, both of Spokane, were the first to declare opposition.

King County Control Seen.

"Senator Palmer wants to give Seattle about a third of the senate and house," declared Senator Groff. "This plan would give Seattle and King county a chance to control the state, and, of course, will not be popular over here."

Westfall said this idea would simply put the state into the hands of Seattle. He said he had planned to work for a smaller legislature, but study convinced him that it would be unfair to rural counties. Similar opinions were expressed by Senators Meyers of Lincoln county, Representative Wolf of Pend Oreille county, and Representative Sanger of Whitman county.

"The cow counties," said Mr. Sanger, "are the sanity balance of the legislature, and if their strength is reduced, King county will run hog wild."

Tacoma and Pierce county will join in the fight against reapportionment.

Spokane Would Lose.

Under Senator Palmer's plan, representation would be on the basis of one senator for 45,000 population, and one representative for 15,000 population. King county would have six of the 21 senators, and 17 to 18 of the 63 representatives. Spokane county would drop from five to two senators and from ten to six representatives. Pierce county would have two senators and six representatives. These estimates leave some surplus population, which would be taken care of by the "gerrymander" or reapportionment.

If reapportionment should be made, Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane would have a total of ten senators and 30 representatives, or just a shade under half of the legislature. This fact also worries some of the rural counties, which would lose "close" representation by being bracketed with adjoining counties in order to have a representative or senator. The ten counties of the southern tier would have only two senators. Clarke, Colville, Skamania, Klickitat and Benton counties—with a combined population of 67,124—would be entitled to one senator.

Senator Palmer's measure would have to join with Franklin, Garfield, Columbia and Asotin in order to have one senator. The same condition would exist north of Spokane and west of Tacoma.

There is considerable fear in eastern Washington, however, that Senator Palmer's measure will be placed on the ballot. Only 40,000 names are needed, which might easily be acquired in Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane. Then there is the difficulty of denying proportional representation and the fact that the constitution calls for reapportionment. But, despite these factors to support Senator Palmer, eastern Washington counties will fight to retain the representation they now hold.

Eastern Washington residents realize that it would be easier to fight King county in the legislature than at the polls. If the people of King county and their neighbors wish to cut down the legislature and redistrict the state, they can do so easily. They have the voting power. In the legislature, the cow counties, on the present basis of representation, have plenty of power, but the initiative swings the authority to the Puget sound.

ALASKA'S RAILROAD DONE IN FEBRUARY

Celebration for Driving "Golden Spike" Planned.

HEART OF YUKON TAPPED

Thousands Expected to Attend Ceremony Which Will Take Place 120 Miles South of Fairbanks.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Jan. 21.—So rapidly has the work of bringing together the ends of steel on Alaska's 467-mile government railroad from Seward, on the sea coast, to Fairbanks, in the heart of the Yukon country, progressed that definite plans are being made for a great celebration throughout the territory to mark the driving of the "golden spike" some time in mid-February.

The Riley creek bridge, 120 miles south of Fairbanks, thousands are expected to attend the ceremony. The bridge, a triumph of engineering, late in November, 1921, 600 tons of steel for the bridge were shipped from Seattle to Seward. Today the bridge, a 200-foot structure, is practically completed. With the exception of the 150-foot steel bridge across the Tanana river at Nenana, which will not be placed in service until late this year or early in 1923, it is the last unit of the road to be completed. Pending completion of work on the bridge at Nenana trains will be sent over the Tanana river in the summer and over tracks laid on the ice during the winter months.

Railroad Cost \$50,000,000.

The government railroad cost approximately \$50,000,000 and has been under construction since 1914. The main line between Seward and Fairbanks is 467 miles in length, but with branches, the completed system will have a total trackage of 539 miles. For some months past luxurious trains, with Pullman coaches and buffet dining cars, have been operated over the main line on a once-a-week schedule. Freight was started as the key that unlocked one of the richest territories in the world. Mail from Seattle will reach Fairbanks in nine days. Heretofore from one to three months was the usual time of transit. The road will be open the year round, and no longer will the freezing of the Yukon winter mean that the great interior country must hibernate until resumption of navigation in the spring.

Richest Areas Tapped.

Alaska's richest areas are tapped by the route. The fertile valleys of the Tanana and Yukon will be in direct connection with Seward, a seaport with a harbor free of ice for 12 months in the year. The road passes through important coal fields, one of which is expected to furnish supplies of steaming fuel for naval vessels. It traverses what government geologists describe as a rich potential oil district in the Cook inlet region contiguous to Anchorage.

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New Route Saves Time.

Today the same bulk of freight can be shipped by the railroad to Fairbanks in three weeks less time than by either of the older routes, traversing a total distance of 1835 miles at a cost of about \$20. Since the road began handling traffic a few months ago the cost of oats in Fairbanks dropped from \$140 to \$70 a ton; the price of beef dropped to 25 cents a pound. Wood costing \$130 a cord was replaced by lignite coal delivered at \$6 a ton.

An increase in tourist traffic is expected. Mount McKinley, 29,299 feet in altitude and the loftiest peak on the North American continent, is but a short distance from the line and Mount McKinley national park will become accessible.

Dairymen to Take Back Creamery.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Jan. 21.—(Special.)—Sixty members of the Oregon Dairymen's League, in session here today, agreed to the proposal of the league trustees to turn back to the dairymen the creamery property in Marshfield valued at \$60,000, for four-fifths of that amount, a 20 per cent payment already having been made. It is proposed here to organize a new creamery association when the liquidation is effected. The Broadbent dairymen accepted a similar proposal.

G.A. Tucker

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of High-Grade FOOTWEAR for Men and Women

L1208—This attractive one-strap pump is in dark brown calf with plain toe, covered French heel and light turn sole. Our Regular Price \$12.50.

\$6.25

J2220—This sturdy pump with one strap is in mahogany brown calfskin. It has one strap, perforated ball strap and tip, well sole and leather Cuban heel. Our Regular Price \$10.00.

\$5.00

1606—This high-grade pump may be had in either black or brown kid, also black or brown suede. It has a well sole and leather Cuban heel. Our Regular Price \$12.50.

\$8.85

B1612—This is a soft brown kid two-strap pump with well sole and leather Cuban heel. Also in black or brown kid, one strap. Our Regular Price \$8.50.

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5822—Men's dancing shoe in patent calf with plain toe and light well sole. This shoe will hold its shape and wear much longer than the light turn sole. Our Regular Price \$8.50.

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5554—A sensible and up-to-date winter shoe for men. It is made of brown Norwegian calf with heavy overweight single sole. Our Regular Price \$8.50.

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Over 250 different styles of shoes for men and women—in all of the popular styles—in all of the better leathers—on sale at prices that make possible savings of \$1.65 to \$8.25 a pair.

NETTLETON SHOES

All styles—all leathers—high or low—brown or black—now.... **\$12.00** per pair

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Correct Clothes for Evening and Day Wear
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