

DENIES CHARGES FOR DELIVERING MESSAGES ARE EXORBITANT

John F. Shorey, Manager City Messenger and Delivery Company, Replies to Citizen.

SAYS RATES ARE ABOUT THE SAME AS BEFORE

"Citizen," in Reply, Shows by Comparative Tables That Increase Has Been More Than Twenty-Five Per Cent and Decries System.

Portland, Oct. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal.—The complaint of "A Citizen" in your issue of yesterday, alleging that the District Messenger companies of Portland are charging excessive rates for the delivery of telegrams and other service, deserves a more careful explanation than was given in the article published. Evidently the author of the article did not trouble himself to investigate fully the conditions which to a great extent govern this class of the public service.

I trust that you will permit me to furnish a few facts which you will publish prominently as you have the complaint, to give the public a better knowledge of this work. Three years ago, any number of boys between the age of 12 and 15 years could be had for messenger work, for from \$15 to \$18 per month. Today, owing to the recently enacted child labor laws, a sufficient number of boys cannot be found to supply the requirements. Men will not do this work at any price, claiming that it is boys' work. They seem to prefer idleness or begging to honest work that they term boys' work simply because boys have been doing this class of work almost universally. I can conceive of no other reason. Under the percentage plan that is demanded by the work, they earn from \$30 to \$50 per month and many of them much more. This increases the payroll of the messenger companies more than 50 per cent. Office rents and other expenses have been more than doubled. It is true that the City Messenger & Delivery company has a franchise, granted by the city of Portland, and it pays the city of Portland more than \$12,000 for such privileges as it receives. This is an expense that was not counted upon three years ago.

Rates Practically the Same.
The messenger rates of today are practically the same as they were three years ago, as the published rate cards of that period will show. They have not been "gradually increased" and there is no danger that they will be. Prior to two years ago the Postal company did not employ its own boys and it has not done so for at least 10 years. The Pacific Messenger company, a corporation owned by prominent Portland business men, performed this service and its charges were identical with the rates of today.

For the information of "A Citizen" and the author of the article published, as well as the public in general, one of the rates of the Postal Telegraph company, governing the delivery of telegrams, is given as follows:
Telegrams will be delivered free within a radius of one-half mile from the office in any city or town of less than 5,000 inhabitants and within a radius of one mile from the office in any city or town of 5,000 or more inhabitants. Beyond these limits only the actual cost of the delivery service will be collected.

Rate Uniform.
This rule has been in force by all telegraph companies for at least 30 years and applies uniformly to every city in the United States.

The messenger rates today in the city of Portland are lower by from 10 to 25 per cent than in any other city in the United States. Telegrams are delivered absolutely free within a radius of 20 blocks (equal to one mile) from the nearest telegraph office. Only the regular city messenger rates are charged when the message is addressed beyond the one mile limit. All telegraph companies open and maintain an office in any community as soon as there is business enough to cover the expense. They can hardly be expected to do more than that.

Not Like a Merchant.
Where the telegraph company has one

telegram to deliver in any suburban point, the large merchant will have a wagon load of packages and can afford to do it free, especially as he always figures it into his selling price. The small merchant will not deliver at any price. All figure the cost of what delivering they do, while the telegraph company figures only on the delivery stated in the above quoted rule. Any person who has a telephone can have his messages telephoned by filling such a request at either telegraph office. This method is much preferred by the messenger companies and the telegraph companies.

JOHN F. SHOREY, Manager, City Messenger & Delivery Co.

SHOWS INCREASE IN RATES.

Comparative Tables Given to Prove Contentment That Charges Are Too High.

In support of his contention that there is a "combine" between the City Messenger & Delivery company and the American District Telegraph company—the former handling the messages of the Postal Telegraph company and the latter those of the Western Union—that the prices fixed by this combine are excessive and that the city ordinance under which they are granted privileges of stringing wires on the streets should limit the amount of their charges to more moderate figures, "A Citizen" produces evidence to prove that there has been a considerable increase in the rate schedule of the messenger companies. The present schedule in force, signed by Mr. Shorey and filed at the office of the Postal Telegraph company, shows the rates that are collected by the messenger company from suburban residents to whom telegraph messages are delivered, in addition to the regular telegraph charges on the message. In the office of the Western Union is a similar schedule, signed by the American District Telegraph company. The prices for delivering messages are identical. These schedules have been in force since October 1, 1905. Prior to that time a schedule of delivery prices considerably lower was in effect. The old schedule is published in the Postal Telegraph company's year book for 1904. The messenger companies have this year increased their charges, on an average more than 25 per cent and in a few cases doubled them, notwithstanding Mr. Shorey's disclaimer.

THE SCHEDULE.

The two schedules are as follows:

Old New Rate Rate.	Old New Rate Rate.
Fulton	50 60
Golf Links	50 85
Highland	25 50
Irvington	25 35
Lincoln Park	25 35
Montavilla	50 60
Mount Tabor	50 60
Piedmont	25 50
Portland Heights	25 35
Portsmouth	50 60
Richmond	25 50
Riverside	50 85
St. Johns	75 85
Sidewood	50 60
Williamette Heights	25 35
Sunnyside	25 35
Tremont	50 85
University Park	50 60
Waverly	25 50
Woodlawn	25 35
Woodstock	50 60

Bad System to Blame.

For the last two years the City Messenger company has had the business of delivering the telegrams of the Postal Telegraph company. Prior to that time the company practically delivered its own messages. It leased and managed the Pacific Messenger company, a local concern, and fixed its own charges for delivery, which were much less than the present charges by the combined messenger companies.

The present high prices are said to be caused by the system of the telegraph companies of farming out the work of delivering their messages. In former days the telegraph companies kept their own forces of messenger boys and messages were delivered practically at cost, the public paying only for the transmission of the message by wire, and the cost of a boy to carry it to office or home of the recipient.

The Rule That Was.

Under that policy the telegraph companies enacted the rule quoted by Mr. Shorey. The spirit of this rule was that the public should not be charged a profit on the work of the messenger boys, and that the telegraph companies should confine their profit-taking to the rates charged by telegraphic transmission. Mr.

Shorey's interpretation of the rule is made to cover his company, the modern "middle-man" in the transaction. The proper cost of delivering the message, "Citizen" contends, is the price paid to the boy for carrying it from the telegraph office to its destination. The practice under the new messenger company regime is to give the boy 40 per cent the price of delivery, and put 60 per cent into the pocket of the messenger company. This is the system in vogue in the messenger delivery business at the present time in Portland. Of every dollar paid by the public to the messenger boys, 40 cents goes to the messenger company till. Inquiry at the offices of the companies proves that Mr. Shorey's statement as to the wages earned by the messenger boys is approximately true. Some of them earn \$50 and over per month. The average is from \$35 to \$40. A boy who earns \$40 a month for himself earns \$60 a month for the messenger company.

Shorey's Statement Confuting.

The statement that the company "pays the city of Portland more than \$12,000 for such privileges as it receives," which Mr. Shorey says is "an expense not counted upon three years ago," is somewhat confusing. Under the ordinance granting franchise to the City Messenger company, the city collects \$100 annually as payment for the franchise for the first five years. The only money this company is paying to the city, so far as known in the auditor's office, is this amount. Should the company continue business under its franchise after five years, it will pay \$200 a year for the next five years. At the end of 10 years it would begin paying \$400 a year, and gradually increase until at the end of 25 years it would have paid the city the aggregate sum of \$10,000 as the total price of its franchise for use of the streets.

In a retail store on Washington street is posted a sign announcing that "All purchases in amounts over \$2 will be delivered free to any part of the city. Purchases of amounts less than \$2 will be delivered to any part of the city for 10 cents." No stipulation is made by Portland retail merchants as to the amount of goods to be delivered in any particular neighborhood to enable a customer to have a package delivered at the home. Most stores deliver packages indiscriminately, and outside of the mile limit only a nominal fee of 10 cents is charged. In view of the fact that the "Citizen" declares, should be followed by the telegraph companies and other public service corporations, and whenever any system is introduced by middle-men imposing burdensome charges, he says, the city authorities should step in and limit the charges.

MANY CAUGHT BY FLOOD

(Continued from Page One.)

for four or five weeks, and the annulment of their charter in New York. About the same time he was notified that a receiver had been appointed to straighten out the affairs of the concern.

From the time the men were imprisoned nothing was heard from headquarters but the weekly payments still were sent to New York. The same thing was true in many other large cities and it is said that the amount which were forwarded to New York must have been nearly \$100,000. What has become of this money is the question which is being asked of the contract-holders. They feel that they should have been notified by wire from New York of the failure of the concern as soon as the promoters were arrested and the receiver appointed.

The contract-holders who lost the money are powerless to do anything, but they blame the authorities of New York for not sending them notification as soon as the failure was known. A complete statement of the affairs of the defunct company and the operations of the promoters has been received by the contract-holders in this city.

THOMAS M'MAHON WEDS LOIS CLEORA ERWEN

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Seattle, Oct. 23.—Thomas McMahon, a well-known local politician, was last night married to Miss Lois Cleora Erwen, the 29-year-old daughter of Louis C. Erwen, at their West Seattle home. McMahon met Miss Erwen five years ago July 4, when he gave her \$10 to purchase fireworks. The attachment has been a matter of common comment ever since. The groom is about 50 years of age.

Field House Burns.

(Journal Special Service.)
Princeton, N. J., Oct. 23.—The big field house on the university athletic field, containing dressing rooms and training quarters of the baseball, football and track teams was destroyed by fire last night. Loss, \$10,000.

FRANK R. HUBBELL KILLS HIMSELF

Seattle Millionaire Found Lying on Floor With Gas Tube by Side.

MARRIED NOTED LOCAL SINGER FEW MONTHS AGO

No Cause Known for Rash Act as Business Affairs Are in Excellent Shape—Occupied Apartments at Fashionable Hotel.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Seattle, Wash., Oct. 23.—Frank R. Hubbell, a millionaire owning the Union block and half a mile of property on Union street in the heart of the business district of this city, committed suicide in his luxurious apartments at the Washington hotel this morning by taking illuminating gas. He was unconscious when found and died at noon.

July 31 he married Miss Helen A. Moore, a noted local singer, and since then has been a guest of the Washington. His wife or friends are unable to assign any cause other than worry over his vast property interests, which, however, are in excellent shape. Lately they had noticed that he was melancholy. Mrs. Hubbell occupies a bed room of her main sitting room and Hubbell another on the opposite side.

This morning at 8 o'clock Mrs. Hubbell arose and after dressing went to her husband's room to awaken him. On opening the door there was a rush of gas and on the floor lay Hubbell, his arms outstretched and a rubber tube extending from the gas jet with the end lying close to his mouth.

UNCANNY ROCK DISAPPEARS OFF CARMANAN

Known as Mark Hanna and Regarded With Suspicion by All Sailors.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Victoria, B. C., Oct. 23.—Keeper Daykin of the Carmanan lighthouse reports the sudden disappearance of the rock "Mark Hanna," which stood 50 feet out of water near Bonilla Point, off Carmanan.

The rock was so named by Daykin some time ago on account of the striking resemblance to the late senator's face shown in the outline of the rock when viewed from one direction. Seamen regarded the rock as really uncanny. It was the cause of many wrecks, sailors contending that it had magnetic power which attracted vessels. Among vessels in recent years lost by striking the rock were the Duchess of Argyll, Puritan and Wempe Brothers. Lighthouse keeper Daykin thinks it was struck by lightning, thus keeping up the romance which has surrounded the rock. Daykin's reasons for this in that the morning after a terrific thunderstorm "Mark Hanna" was lost to view. He firmly believes it was destroyed in the way indicated. Exposed as it was to stormy seas it is quite possible that the rock might be blown off below the surface until finally it toppled over during the storm.

BLOOD FLOWS IN RUSSIA

(Continued from Page One.)

being badly wounded. At Tomsk a mob is marching through the streets singing revolutionary songs and demanding a communal republic. Troops charged the rioting crowd, forcing many to disperse and many were wounded. The attack was followed by a strike of the railway employees, who had remained at work until this morning.

Martial Law at Warsaw.

Martial law has been declared at Warsaw. The governor-general has ordered every labor agitator found with arms in his possession shot on the spot. Every person after 8 o'clock at night on the streets will be arrested and searched and if revolutionary literature is found upon him he will be shot. Great excitement followed the promulgation of the order, which was followed by the dynamiting of the bridge at Kysakoff, a suburb, and the tearing up of the railway tracks for a considerable distance.

Rioting at Kiev.

At Kiev a mob gathered and made threats of violence. The troops placed machine guns at the railway station expecting an attack. The military commander ordered the troops to recapture Kharkoff, where a state of war is declared to exist, and much bloodshed is expected to follow the execution of the order.

At Lodz the strike is most complete.

At Lodz the strike is most complete, every employe in the city being out except the gas workers, whom the military have compelled to continue at work. The governor has ordered the troops to fire in the event of disturbances and to act without mercy.

The law creating a responsible cabinet is expected to be promulgated this afternoon and Witte's appointment as premier announced.

White guns which have been collected at Sarsko-Selo for the protection of the palace have been brought here, as it is feared the revolutionists may resort to violence. No attempt was made to interfere with the monster mass meeting held at the university yesterday. Big meetings were also held in the technological, art institutes and engineering schools.

It is reported that the czar will withdraw his imperial edict creating a duma and will give a liberal constitution, fashioned after the English model, to the Russian people.


Witte is said to favor this policy as the only action possible to bring peace to the country. Unless some such action is taken Witte has threatened to leave the country.

Wilton at Coos Bay.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Marshfield, Or., Oct. 23.—Senator Fulton attended a dinner in his honor given by Mayor L. J. Simpson of North Bend last night.

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THIEVING WAITRESS IS SENT TO PENITENTIARY

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Chehalis, Wash., Oct. 23.—Myrtle Felter, a waitress, who came here from Portland and was employed at the St. Helens hotel in this city, pleaded guilty to grand larceny before Judge Rice and was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary. She stole money and jewelry from other employes at the hotel and attempted to fasten the guilt on a young man employed in the house.

TREMAIN IS ACQUITTED OF MURDERING MARSHAL

Aberdeen, Wash., Oct. 23.—Samuel Tremaine, who was accused of kicking to death Marshal Clay of Elma last August, when the latter was trying to arrest him, was yesterday acquitted on the ground of self defense.

MALHEUR DITCH BOUGHT BY MINNEAPOLIS MEN

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Weiser, Ida., Oct. 23.—Minneapolis capitalists have bought the Malheur ditch, which was projected about four years ago to irrigate 25,000 acres on the Oregon side of the Snake river. The completed ditch will be about 25 miles long, about one-quarter of it has been completed and the new purchasers bond themselves to finish it by May 15 of next year.



Good Taste and Bad Taste in Small Houses

Pictures of good houses on one side of the page and on the other a sample of the ugly architecture with which this country abounds—the contrast is striking. See the

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