

PHONE REHEARING PLEA IS ENTERED; NO DECISION MADE

Salem, Or., April 19.—Reopening of the telephone rate case may result in an increase of several million dollars in the valuation of the property of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company in Oregon, according to James T. Shaw of San Francisco, attorney for the company, who appeared before the public service commission Monday afternoon to contest the arguments of the petitioners for rehearing of the facts upon which the commission based its order of February 18 granting to the company increased rates to its Oregon patrons.

The company has no objection to a rehearing of the rate case, in fact would welcome another chance to present its claims for a more equitable valuation of its properties for rate-making purposes, but strenuously objects to any attempt toward a suspension of the present rates pending the completion of such a rehearing, according to Shaw, who challenged the authority of the commission to suspend the present rates which have now been in effect for more than 30 days.

INCREASED VALUATION

The physical valuation of the company's properties in Oregon for rate-making purposes, which has been fixed at approximately \$18,000,000 by the Oregon commission, should be raised to approximately \$25,000,000 with a corresponding increase in the reasonable returns to the company, Shaw contends. The petition for a rehearing of the rate case was presented by Frank M. Grant, city attorney for Portland, who explained that he represented not only the city of Portland, but practically every one of the principal cities in Oregon in asking for a reopening of the telephone case.

Lawrence A. McNary of Portland, representing the Oregon Hotelmen's association with 40 hotels in Portland and 25 outside of Portland, presented a separate petition for a rehearing of the rate case. The hotels, he declared, had been peculiarly injured by the recent rate order which had increased rates all the way from 70 per cent to 225 per cent.

POOR TIME TO CHANGE

Edward M. Cousin, Portland rate expert, representing telephone users of Benton, Polk, Linn and Lane counties, appeared before the commission and was granted permission to file a separate petition later.

H. M. Tomlinson, assistant city attorney for Portland, in closing the case for the petitioners intimated that the present, with prices generally on the decline, was a most inopportune time to establish such a schedule of rates as is represented in the order under attack, and which

must be regarded as a pace setter in future rate cases.

The order, he insisted, should be regarded rather as an emergency relief measure, and inasmuch as it had been in operation for a period of two months it would be in order to take stock to determine what its effect had been upon the revenues of the company.

Replying to a question from Shaw, Tomlinson intimated that a reduction in the wages of employees of the company might be justified in bringing about a reduction of telephone rates.

"Do you think that the wages of operators and phone employees should be reduced?" Shaw demanded, interrupting Tomlinson in the course of his remarks. "That is a question that has to be looked into," Tomlinson replied. "That may be the result of this readjustment that has got to be made. We have got to get at a basis whereby the utility can operate and give service to the people."

Other attorneys appearing in the interest of a rehearing were John Gavin of The Dalles, E. P. Morton of Woodburn and Ray L. Smith of Salem.

DECLARES CASE CLOSED

In its answer to the petition the telephone company declares that the case is

closed and not subject to a rehearing, and that the allegations and statements set out in such petition are not sufficient to warrant granting a rehearing. None of the petitioners had complied with the rules of the commission in presenting claims, Shaw declared, and no facts had been stated which would justify a reopening of the rate case.

Replying to the statements of McNary, Shaw pointed out that the hotels and other private branch exchange patrons who were so hard hit by the recent increase had entirely escaped in the three previous rate increases granted by the Oregon commission.

Appearing with Shaw in behalf of the company were H. D. Pillsbury of San Francisco, vice president and general attorney for the company, and Omar C. Spencer of the firm of Carey & Kerr, Portland.

The question of a rehearing has been taken under advisement for decision at a later date. In the event a rehearing is granted, representatives of both sides will be called in for another conference, at which a date for the hearing will be agreed upon.

Don't worry about trouble. It has never missed an appointment yet.

Senate Adopts New Organization Rule

Washington, April 19.—(I. N. S.)—By a vote of 44 to 25 the senate late this afternoon adopted a rule that the 10

major committee of the senate shall be composed of 10 Republicans and six Democrats. This was the Republican majority plan for the reorganization of senate committees and went through as per program, despite the determined opposition of the Democrats, who have made a strenuous fight against the rule for several days.

Mrs. Martini Faints At Sight of Fire

The sight of smoke and fire in her own home so frightened Mrs. Martini, 436 East Thirty-seventh street, about 3

o'clock Monday afternoon, that she fainted. Neighbors called firemen from Engine 9 at Sunnyside, who extinguished the chimney fire. Mrs. Martini said her fright was caused by the remembrance of a fire several years ago in which a small town burned.

Minimum Wage for Farmers
Sterling, Colo., April 19.—Thirty-five dollars a month with board and room provided is the minimum wage for farm labor in Logan county, fixed by the farm bureau. If a farm hand doesn't want board and room he will be entitled to \$60 a month, with a house, garden and cow provided.

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Beautiful as was Cortot's playing, the reproduction was equally marvelous. Every artifice of color and shading used by Cortot, the great French Master, was reproduced in faultless counterpart by the marvelous DUO-ART.

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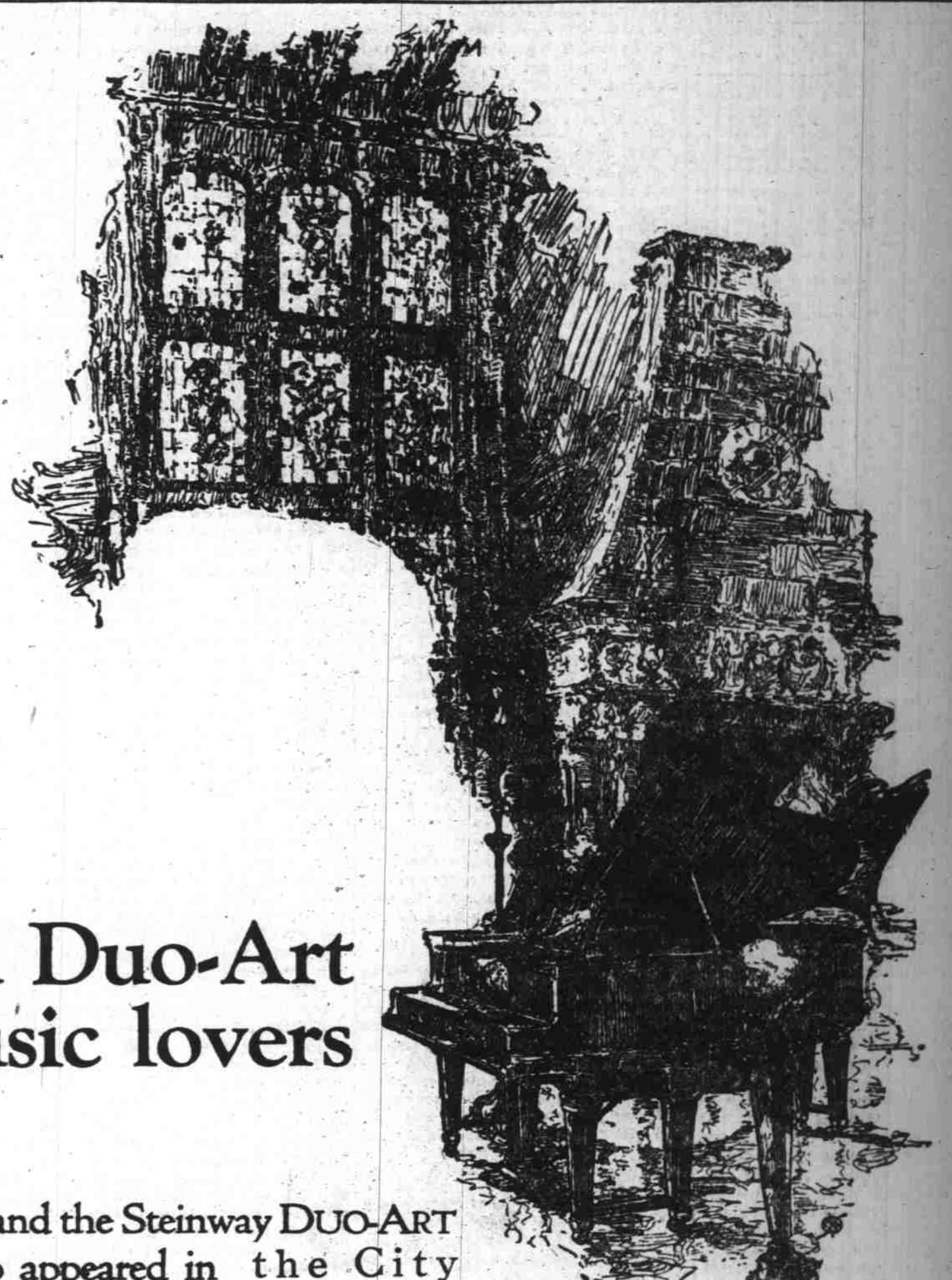
And there, in the presence of hundreds of music-lovers the DUO-ART again showed how it earned the sincerest compliment ever paid to an instrument by a great musician.

TO ALL who last night heard Cortot himself in recital, and to all others, Sherman, Clay & Co. extend a cordial invitation to come in and hear the Cortot records on the marvelous DUO-ART reproducing piano.

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