

## BURLESON'S NEW TELEPHONE RATES AROUSE THE PUBLIC

Washington, D. C. February 3.—Special to the Outlook.—Nothing the present administration has attempted to "put over" has aroused such widespread resentment and called forth such general and vigorous protests as Postmaster General Burleson's revision upward of long-distance telephone charges, effective January 21.

Since the administration, under the pretext of its being a war measure, seized the telephone service of the country and placed it under Postmaster General Burleson, there has been growing dissatisfaction with the service. The limit of public patience, however, seems to have been reached when the new schedule of rates for long distance was announced. Notwithstanding the announcement was accompanied by the carefully conveyed impression that the new rates would be a public benefit, the facts are pretty definitely summed up in the statement of Chairman Hill, of the New York Public Service Commission, made in connection with the Commission's instituting legal proceedings in the federal courts to restrain the New York Telephone Company from putting into operation the new rates ordered by Postmaster General Burleson. Mr. Hill said:

The new rates were promulgated by the Postmaster General with the statement that they brought about a decrease in charges, but analysis by the New York Public Service commission gives the same results as analysis made by the public service commissions in Illinois, Ohio, Nebraska, New Jersey, Indiana, Missouri and other states; that is, that the rates are increased from 20 to 100 per cent. The effect of the order of the Postmaster General is to increase charges for telephone service covering the bulk of traffic, and making charges for certain service which heretofore were free.

**Burleson's Power Challenged.**  
The New York Public Service commission is not alone in resorting to litigation to test the right of Postmaster General Burleson to handle the telephone rates of the country. At least nine other states commissions have instituted legal proceedings to prevent the enforcement of the new rates. These states are: Illinois, Nebraska, West Virginia, Ohio, New Jersey, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin and Alabama. In commenting upon its action in challenging Postmaster General Burleson's program, the Nebraska State commission issued a statement in which it says:

The Postmaster General has entered into compensation contracts with telephone companies without making any audit of their books or survey of their properties. The Postmaster General has increased the existing charges and has made new charges for service heretofore free without substantial investigation of their necessity and practicability. The Postmaster General has conducted the telephone business without affording the public an opportunity to be heard."

The state officials of practically all the states have registered their disapproval of the action in messages to various congressmen, and particularly to the members of the House committee on Postoffice and Post Roads.

The public protests against the new rates take on the air of indignation because of the attempt on the part of the Postmaster General to make it appear that the new rates are a decrease. To illustrate what are the real facts it is only necessary to compare the new rates in action with the old.

**How New Rates Work.**  
Under the old order, if John Brown wished to talk to William Smith, he might put in a call for William Smith, that is, he might ask the operator not only to get the telephone number at which William Smith might be called, but to call William Smith to the phone. Or John Brown might want to talk to William Smith at a certain hour and he could make an appointment to have William Smith put on the phone at that hour. Or he might want William Smith to call him at a certain hour and have William Smith call him, with the charges reversed. Any one or all of these things, John Brown might have done under the old schedule without any extra charges over the published rates for a three-minute talk.

Now it is different. Under Postmaster General Burleson's new schedule, John Brown cannot talk to William Smith unless he puts in what is now designated a "person to person" call. The rate for such a call is 25 per cent. greater than the minimum rate for three minutes' conversation. The only service John Brown can now get for the minimum rate is what is known as a "station to station" call. This merely en-

titles him to call a telephone number and talk to whomever answers the phone. As only an infinitely small percentage of long distance calls are for "anyone there" at the number called, the number of cases where Mr. Burleson's new minimum rate will apply, will be practically negligible.

Not only must John Brown pay extra in order to have William Smith himself put on the phone, but if he wishes to have Mr. Smith put on the phone at a particular time then another additional rate is charged, known under Mr. Burleson's new schedule as an "appointment rate." Moreover, if John Brown calls for William Smith and the operator reports that he is not there, and Mr. Brown has the operator ascertain when he will be there, Mr. Brown is charged an extra fee for this service which is known as a "report charge."

**Rates Actually Doubled.**  
All of these various services have been rendered by the telephone companies without extra charge and as the majority of long distance calls includes at least one, and maybe all of these services, the actual increase in rates under Mr. Burleson's new telephone order approximates nearly 100 per cent.

Another point upon which an effort was made to mislead the public was in the statement that the night rates are so much lower than formerly. This is true only on "station to station" calls. That is to say, where John Brown simply asks for a telephone number without asking for anyone in particular or making any appointment. On all long distance calls at night, regardless of the time of night, where the party calling asks for some party in particular or asks information regarding some party or seeks to make an appointment with some party there is no reduction from the day rate.

The new rates mean an increase of thousands of dollars annually in telephone bills of large corporations and a price to the individual so high as to be almost prohibitive. Under Postmaster General Burleson's administration of the postal department the mails have become so irregular and so undependable that the larger business, banking and manufacturing concerns have been resorting more and more to the telephone. Now they fear that this service is going to be crippled even as the mail service has been crippled and at the same time (as with the mail service) the rates advanced.

**The Larger Issue.**  
In a larger sense, there is the menace of an autocracy established under the pretense that it is necessary to make the world safe for democracy. That is the issue which the various state commissions are bringing into the federal courts. No one believes the administration's seizure of the telephone systems of the country was a war necessity, but having used the war as a camouflage to get control of this vast public utility it remains to be decided whether that autocratic power can be indefinitely extended into the era of peace and used to suit the personal caprice of one man or advance the political fortunes of a clique, at an added cost to the public of millions of dollars and, at the same time, a lessened quality of public service, and in defiance of all state laws and regulations.

### NEW LAUNDRY READY IN ROSS BUILDING

A. J. Miller has opened a laundry in the Ross building near the Gresham bakery. He is commencing in a modest way and for awhile will not undertake all lines of laundry work. He will receive all order but will send some of it to Portland until he can increase his facilities for all work.

Mr. Miller has an advertisement in this issue of the Outlook and states that he hopes to be able soon to handle everything that comes to his establishment. He and his family have moved into the rooms at the rear of the building.

More persons are worried about where to raise the capital for three square meals a day for self and family than are worried about how to get capital with which to float big business.

**Used Furniture Bargains.**  
Chipman's second-hand store is full of bargains and opportunities for saving money. Powell street, near Liberty fountain.

## FARMERS AIM FOR NATIONAL BUREAU VOICE OF THEIR OWN

American farm bureaus now swing into national action.

A convention at Ithaca, N. Y., on February 12 and 13 is scheduled to carry out the county farm bureau idea and organize a national association. Delegates from a score of states will be in attendance.

Several state organizations of county farm bureaus have been perfected. Now the national organization.

The county farm bureaus as operated in Iowa and other central states have organized into district and state organizations for the purpose of handling farm problems in a business-like way.

The farm bureau movement is headed in every county by officers and committees representing the county unit. Every bureau has a county agricultural agent whose salary is paid jointly from the Smith-Lever bill and county funds.

The Smith-Lever bill provides that the federal government shall provide a portion of the funds needed to pay

for the county agricultural agents' salaries.

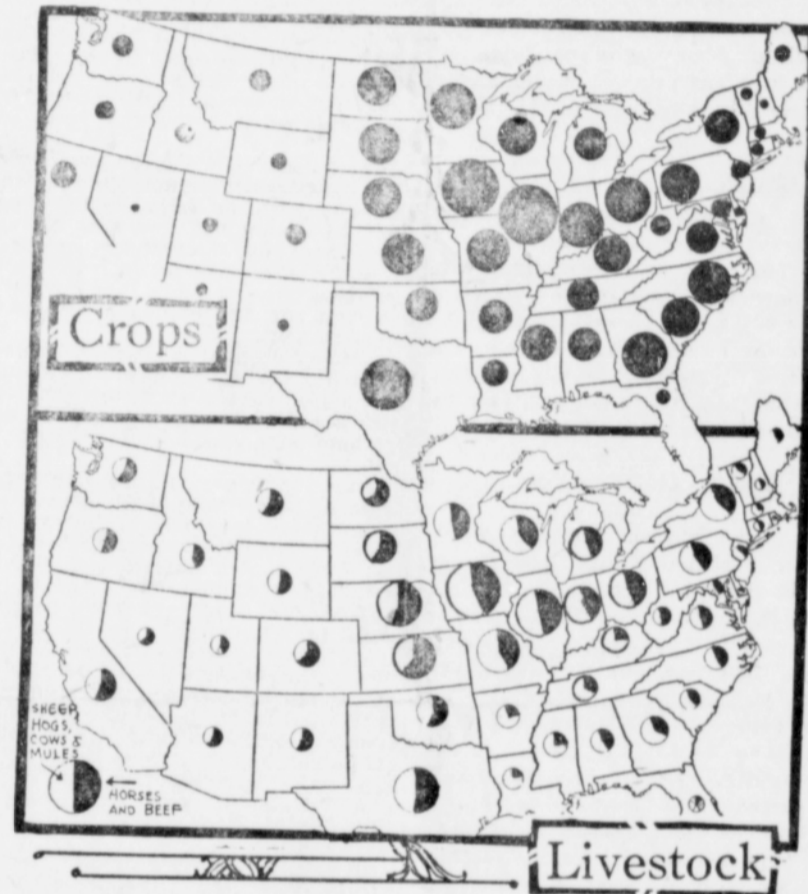
The membership fee of the farmers of \$5 per year and county funds makes up the balance needed to finance the farm bureau movement. Ten per cent of the farmers' membership fee is used to finance the state and national organization.

It is predicted that the meeting in Ithaca will result in mobilizing the farm bureau movement into a big, broad way to the end that farm business will hereafter be conducted along big business lines and farmers will have a channel through which all farm problems and questions may be ably handled. When national questions come up there will be duly accredited representatives to present the farmers' side of every question.

The membership fee of the farmers varies in some of the states, but the farmers are contributing their share in the support of the farm bureau movement.

The organization is non-political to predict any sudden and radical agencies interested in agriculture.

## How U. S. Farms Produced in 1918



America's farms produced crops and livestock in 1918 which totaled about twenty-one billion dollars. Corn was the principal grain, with wheat second. The crops totaled a value of \$12,272,412,000. In the livestock, beef steers and horses were in the majority. The total livestock value totaled \$8,552,000,000. Here are maps made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture which show the amount of production in each state in the Union.

## ALASKA SOCIETY ARRANGES FOR A BANQUET

The Alaska Society, of which Mrs. Edyth Tozier Weathered is a prominent member was recently organized in Portland and is in a flourishing condition. Mrs. Weathered has favored the Outlook with a story of the proposed banquet now in preparation, as there are several former Alaskans in and around Gresham who are members of the society, and who will be interested.

On Monday evening, February 10, the society will have a real old sour dough feed at Hotel Imperial, 7 o'clock sharp.

The committee has arranged with the hotel to receive any decorations, and to properly guard the same such as skins, baskets or any article typical of the far north.

The Elizabethan room where the banquet will be held, will resemble a miner's cabin. The table with its eating "utensils" and all service will recall pioneer days in the far north. As planned, and for which has now been arranged this will be the most unique and entertaining banquet ever given in Portland. The pleasing social side cannot be doubted.

This society is fast gaining a reputation and standing among the leading and most prominent organizations of Portland. This banquet will be the initial one of the society and it is essential that we make it a great success as to attendance. From the enthusiasm already manifested, there is no doubt every plate will be taken.

### CEDARVILLE WOMAN GIVEN SURPRISE

One must certainly take their hats off to the friends and neighbors of Cedarville for planning and carrying out a complete surprise in honor of Mrs. J. V. Cogswell's birthday Saturday evening. Congratulations and merriment seemed to predominate, also cards and music. Afterwards refreshments and many happy returns.

ONE WHO WAS PRESENT.

The number is limited and it is very important that if you want to be one of the number, make your reservations now by sending your check (\$1.50) to W. H. Downing, 224 Abington Building, or phone him Main 2105, making reservations and paying for same to the treasurer of the society, E. H. Collis on the evening of the banquet.

The following menu will be served:  
Ketchikan asparagus with Juneau dressing.  
Tom Cod a la Nome.  
Reindeer a la Teller.  
Moose a la Koyukuk or Cariboo a la Kobuk with Sour Dough gravy.  
Cheechauka Onions.  
Spuds Mataunuska.  
Baked Alaska "Strawberries."  
Sour Dough Bread and Sea Biscuits.  
Tomatoes Tanana style.  
Out Side Apple Pie.  
Cheese a la Oregon.  
Coffee, Arctic style with canned cow.

The toasts will be brief but full of pep. Unique features will be introduced.

Any information will kindly be given by calling Harry Hambleton, Hotel Imperial between the hours of 1 and 4 p. m. Alaskans and their families will be given first consideration in making reservations after which your friends will be very kindly looked after, but please give in their names.

Articles loaned for decorations must be at the hotel by 2 p. m. on the day of the banquet.

### NOTICE.

Members of M. W. A. Your presence is desired at next meeting Friday, February 7th. Installation of officers and other important business.

C. J. LUNDQUIST, Clerk.  
Since the war started the Y. M. C. A. has undoubtedly been the largest purchaser of athletic goods in the world.

Work started on St. Helens municipal dock.

## EXPECTS TO REMAIN IN FRANCE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS LONGER

Some interesting extracts from letters received from Emerson Brown by his mother, Mrs. O. J. Brown, are given in the following:

December 18, 1919.

Dear Mother:—Well, a week from today is Christmas but I don't suppose it will be a very merry one for me. I guess I have a surprise for you and it will afford you and grandpa many a laugh. When I get home you can sit around all the time, as I am cooking now. Don't you think I will be pretty good?

Well, I will tell you how it is that I got the job. You know I have been pretty sick and they wouldn't let me drive, so when I got to feeling better, the doctor asked the captain if I couldn't work inside somewhere. He asked me if I knew anything about cooking. I told him not a whole lot but I was willing to learn, so he put me on. I have been cooking for about a month now and I expect to get my rating soon. It is pretty hard work now as we are planning for a big feed for Christmas dinner.

Well, the "guerre is fin" as the French say, but I don't expect to leave this country for about six months. Our captain told us we were going to stay over here and work for that length of time, so we are looking forward to a few more months in France. We have moved twice since the armistice was signed. We were near Verdun before that. Then we moved back to a place called Vaincourt. The day we hit there I was standing in the road waiting for the kitchen to be unloaded, when a machine went by. I yelled and they stopped. Who should jump out but Earl Stanley. He was taking a couple of officers to Bar-le-Duc. A few days after that I was lying in bed and someone shook me. When I opened my eyes I discovered it was Earl again. He had dinner with me and then we walked up to his camp, about 12 kilometers away. Believe it, it did me a lot of good to see him. He showed me a lot of clippings I hadn't seen. Well, after being at this camp for about two weeks, we moved back in the S. O. S., a distance of 240 kilometers to a place called LaTrecy. We are figuring on moving to a place called Chaumont after Christmas.

Tell Dad not to wear that tractor out before I get home, as I want to run the thing for a while anyway.

Well, this is my first letter this year and I hope it will be my last one on this side of the ocean. I received the

### COUNTY FAIR WILL GET WHOLE SEVEN THOUSAND

Word came from Salem yesterday that the state appropriation to the Multnomah county fair and that formerly given to the Land Products show had been combined and given to the county fair. The whole sum available by thus combining the two appropriations will be \$7000.

This action was forecasted in last Tuesday's Outlook when it was stated that a committee had gone to Salem with the object in view of securing the larger appropriation. The object seems to have been accomplished and will mean that the Land show will not be held this year and that the county fair will absorb not only its appropriation but its exhibition features.

A special meeting of the fair board has been called for next Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock for the purpose of revising the premium list. All prizes will be advanced about 50 per cent, and in some instances more, as the appropriation is for premiums only and cannot be used for any other purpose. The premium list will be issued early.

FRESH YOUNG JERSEY COW for sale. W. P. Deen, Sycamore station, R-A, Gresham. 101

When in doubt try a Want Ad.

money you and grandpa sent me yesterday but I was on shift and couldn't write until now. I am glad I received it for I have been putting in some terrible days and nights. I can't sleep much any more because I cough all the time. Now, since I got the money, I am going to leave in three or four days. I am going to a small town called Aix les Bains, which is near the mountains and is very dry. The doctor advised me to go there as he said the mountain air will do me good. Believe me, I expect to have a fine time, as one of the lieutenants that I know is going too. I knew him when I was going to Washington high school. In fact, he was in the same class that I was. For a while I was feeling fine but since before Christmas I have been on the bum right, and have missed two shifts since New Years. The doctor thinks it was working so hard to get our New Year's dinner. It was just my luck to have it fall on my shift.

We worked until 10 o'clock New Year's eve, getting stuff ready and then I was up at 2:30 starting breakfast. I had the turkey in the oven by 4 o'clock and by 9:30 it was done. I will tell you what we had for dinner and by that you can guess the amount of work it took.

We had roast turkey, creamed mashed potatoes, butter, stuffed olives, Baltimore dressing, Waldorf salad, dill pickles, apple pie, chocolate cake, mixed nuts, candy, cigars, coffee and beer on draught. Believe me, mother, when I get home you can sit down and I will be able to get almost anything to eat. Everything was fine and dandy. We were supposed to start serving at 2 o'clock but I had everything ready by noon, I was so afraid I wouldn't get things done on time. I sure rushed things through. We haven't received our ratings yet but the captain told the mess sergeant that we ought to get rated by the fifteenth at the latest, so we are patiently waiting until that time, when we will be rated cook and will consequently have the nickname of "greasy" by the boys.

Our squadron is working now with a division that is not far from here and it sounds worse than when we were up at the front because the machines are flying lower and the guns are practically at our back door. You see the pilots watch where the shells hit and then let the batteries know so they can change their range.

The latest reports are that we need not expect to be out of France until about the first of June, but at that, I can still say that I will spend my 4th of July at home.

EMERSON D. BROWN.

### ROCKWOOD CHURCH TO REOPEN SUNDAY

After being closed for over a month on account of the influenza epidemic, the Rockwood church will reopen Sunday with a new order of services. The Sunday school opening hour has been changed to 10:30 o'clock. All older people who formerly attended the 11 o'clock preaching service are now asked to join in the 10:30 o'clock Bible class. Rev. F. J. Schnell will be present both at the morning and evening services, but the regular preaching service will be at 7:30 o'clock.

Mrs. E. W. Peterson has been asked to furnish special music Sunday morning. The superintendent announces that a more intensive study into the construction of the Bible will be taken up from the platform. The work is to be taken up where it was discontinued in December.

It is hoped by the pastor that residents of Rockwood, no matter what their creed, will rally to the support of the little church that is striving only to uplift the community and to advance the kingdom of God.

The fight to close Rogue River to sealing is again up after the people of the state have voted to leave it open to seals and salmon industry.

## LAST DAY, FEBRUARY 10

Not the end of the world, so far as we know, but the end of a great opportunity for the readers of the Outlook.

The bargain period on the Portland Telegram will close next Monday, February 10.

All subscriptions for the Telegram, at bargain rates, must be in the hands of their special agent, Mrs. St. Clair, at the Outlook office, by six o'clock, on the above date.

Many subscriptions for the Outlook and Telegram in combination, and some for the Telegram alone, have been received. There is room for more. More are needed in order to put the agent at the top of the list for one of the prizes offered by the Telegram.

### THIS IS THE LAST CALL!

See the ad. elsewhere for the bargain price.

Decide now while you can use the mail. As an extreme last resort use the telephone.

OUTLOOK PUBLISHING CO.  
PHONE 701