

TELEPHONE FEES CUT

State Railway Commission Makes Public New Schedule On Order of Postmaster General.

Postmaster General Burleson's revised schedule of installation and moving charges for telephones, made public by the state railway commission, materially reduces the charges which were put into effect by his order last September, shortly after the government took over the telephone system of the country. The new charges run from \$1.50 to \$3.50, according to the extent of the work necessary. Many complaints have reached the commission on the original order, but it is believed the new one will be more satisfactory. The new rates for installing telephones are: Individual or party line phone, \$3.50; each extension, \$3.50; private branch exchange service, \$3.50; changing name of subscriber, but not the telephone, \$1.50; moving telephone, \$3.00; change type or style of telephone, \$3.00. The lowering of the charges followed a trip to Washington by the Nebraska commissioners, who protested the old charge schedule.

To dispel fears of Nebraska farmers that because of peace wheat crops would no longer be protected under the government guaranteed price, Charles T. Neal of the food administration grain corporation at Omaha issued a statement to the effect that the purchase of wheat would continue until June, 1920.

Reports reaching the office of State Superintendent of Schools Clemmons at Lincoln show that a large number of teachers in rural districts and small town schools are quitting their jobs because the boards of those districts have refused to pay them for time lost when schools were closed because of the influenza epidemic.

It is understood in Lincoln that Governor Neville will submit the national prohibitory amendment to the legislature when it convenes next month in his retiring message. As both houses are pledged to ratify the amendment it is expected that it will be one of the first measures rushed through.

Beemer has again been forced to put the ban on public gatherings because of the "flu" epidemic. Considerable resentment is manifested in the town because the order incloses churches, schools and picture shows and not pool halls and soft drink emporiums.

Preparations are being made at Omaha for a fitting welcome and entertainment for Nebraska troops when they return from service overseas. It is probable that men from this district will be mustered out at Omaha.

Directors of the school at Buda, Buffalo county, which was completely destroyed by fire recently, have arranged to remodel a large barn and use it until a new school building can be erected.

The State Horticultural society will hold its annual meeting in Lincoln, January 20 to 25. A business meeting of the Nebraska Potato Improvement association will be held in connection.

The influenza ban has again been renewed at the University of Nebraska S. A. T. C. at Lincoln. The quarantine will continue until the unit is demobilized.

J. M. Tanner, publisher of the South Omaha Democrat, was elected to the state senate in the recent election by six votes. An official count was required.

Lincoln is in the grip of another severe epidemic of the Spanish influenza. One hundred new cases were reported in a single day last week.

As a means for preventing another outbreak of the "flu," temperature of all school children at Beatrice is being taken every morning.

All anti-litter ordinances were repealed by the city commission at Omaha a few hours after the street car strike was called.

The Omaha Potash and Refining company, a \$1,000,000 company, has begun the erection of a \$500,000 potash plant at Lakeside.

The state food administration has announced that the permit system for the shipping of course grain has been discontinued.

The national convention of the Farmers' Equity union will be held in Omaha December 18 and 19. Two hundred delegates are expected.

The run of hogs at the South Omaha market during the past month was 289,487 head, or 93,000 head more than during November a year ago.

When the government edict closing all breweries and malt beverage plants became effective Nov. 30, to save grain, four big plants in Omaha, valued at \$5,000,000, and employing 1,500 persons, shut down.

All restrictions on the sale and use of sugar have been withdrawn by the state food administration.

The state supreme court has ruled that the suffrage referendum now being held up in the Lancaster county district court, may be submitted at the next state election, if the petition is found sufficient.

Nebraska's road building program for 1919 calls for 752 miles to cost \$1,657,000, of which the federal government pays half and state and local authorities pay half, according to State Engineer Johnson.

Midland college and the Atchewa seminary, two large Lutheran educational institutions at Atchison, Kas., will be moved to Fremont, if the recommendation of the Nebraska synod, which convened in that city last week, is followed. According to an agreement with the Fremont Commercial club the property of the Fremont college is to be purchased for \$85,000, of which the Commercial club will pay \$25,000 and the synod the balance.

The board of regents of the University of Nebraska recommended that the reserve officers' training corps be reinstated at the state college at Lincoln following the demobilization of the S. A. T. C. In connection with this matter the regents moved to ask the government that conditions for obtaining uniforms and equipment for infantry, radio, aviation and artillery instruction be improved.

An embargo against the importation of German potash, intended for the protection of American fertilizer manufacturers has been agreed upon by Vance McCormick, chairman of the war industries board, according to information received in Lincoln from Congressman H. P. Kinkaid and C. F. Reavis, representing potash producing districts of Nebraska, in Washington.

Members of the State Association of Commissioners, Supervisors, Highway Commissioners and County Clerks at their annual meeting at Hastings, selected Omaha as the place to hold the 1919 convention. The commissioners went on record at the meeting favoring raising the taxes upon full valuations instead of upon one-fifth as at present.

The permit system of hog shipments from the country to the loading markets has been removed by the food administration. In removing the permits, farmers are warned by the food administration not to rush their hogs in at an abnormal rate as it would defeat their best interests.

Dr. W. L. Westermann, professor of ancient history at the University of Wisconsin, who accompanied the Wilson peace party to France, was a cadet at the University of Nebraska under General John J. Pershing when the latter was commandant at the Lincoln institution.

The ten-mile Chaleo-Yutan caroff of the Burlington will not be torn up on orders of the federal railway administration. The State Railway Commission has been advised that the need for track material has been relieved by signing of the armistice.

F. O. Landstrom of Tekamah was elected president of the County Clerks' State Association; Gilbert E. Hanse of Kearney, vice president; and A. S. Allen of North Platte, secretary-treasurer, at the annual convention of the organization at Hastings.

Statistics made public by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce show that Nebraska now leads all states in the union in the production of hay. In the past three years this state produced 19,940,000 tons, including alfalfa.

Omaha is making preparations to entertain Nebraska school ma'ams every minute of the time spent in the city during the annual convention of the State Teachers' association during Christmas week.

Work has begun on the veterinary science building on the university farm campus at Lincoln. The general contract calls for an expenditure of about \$60,000.

Lieutenant L. W. Baird of North Platte, aviator, was instantly killed when his airplane fell from a great height in a tail spin at Brooks Field, San Antonio, Texas.

Investigation made by experts at the college of agriculture at Lincoln show that sweet clover is rapidly becoming popular in this state as a pasture crop.

The Nebraska State Bankers' association annual convention, scheduled to be held at Omaha early this month, has been postponed again because of influenza.

Because of the prevalence of influenza in Chase county a district court jury, summoned at Imperial, was discharged.

December 15 to 18 the Nebraska Farmers' congress will convene in the Castle hotel at Omaha.

Omaha will hold its annual automobile show, the dates having been set for February 24 to March 1.

Efforts are being made at Omaha to have Nebraska restored to the Illinois and Indiana coal zone.

It is estimated that about 35,000 Nebraska boys were enrolled in the United States Boys' Working Reserve last month.

Insurgents of the Nebraska State Teachers' association, opposed to holding the annual convention in Omaha, are scheduled to meet December 26 at Hastings under the name of the Nebraska Educational association. The date is the same as the opening day of the annual meeting of the Nebraska State Teachers' association in Omaha.

A Douglas county representative elect is preparing a bill to introduce at the coming session of the state legislature to make all public school buildings in Nebraska available for community gatherings.

It is estimated that Nebraska's best sugar crop, produced by the four big factories in the western part of the state, will aggregate 100,000,000 pounds. The acreage planted to sugar beets this year was the largest ever reported. The yield averaged twelve to fifteen tons to the acre. The growers are getting around \$10 a ton.



1—British mine sweepers clearing the North sea of German mines. 2—American soldiers who were wounded in the St. Mihiel salient photographed on their arrival in New York. 3—Dr. Joseph Pernikoff, representative of the all-Russian government, who has just come to the United States.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

President Sails for France, But Does Not Tell Specifically What He Plans to Do.

WILL BE WARMLY WELCOMED

Trial of Former Kaiser for Murder Seems Assured—Liebknecht and Spartacus Group Fighting Ebert's Government for Control in Germany.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

With the cheers of thousands of civilians and returning soldiers ringing in his ears, President Wilson sailed away for Europe on December 4, on his mission of world peace-making. As the good ship George Washington made its way out of New York harbor all the shore batteries and war vessels joined in the presidential salute and off quarantine the steamship met its convoy, the battleship Pennsylvania and five destroyers. It was a pleasant coincidence that the presidential party met several transports thronged with American troops just sent home from England and France.

Mr. Wilson, it was expected, would land at Brest about December 12 and proceed at once to Paris, where the residence of Prince Murat has been prepared for him. The other delegates and most of the rest of the large party will be housed in the Hotel Crillon.

The president is assured of a warm and even enthusiastic welcome in France, Great Britain and Italy. His arrival in Europe will be scarcely less welcome to the people of what were the central empires. The governments of those states, distracted and disheveled, look to Mr. Wilson to mollify the entente powers and obtain for them less rigorous peace terms than the crimes of the Teutons have deserved. Whether he will be able to accomplish this, or even will attempt it, remains to be seen. The president has not taken into his confidence the congress or the people of America, possibly because he could not guess, prior to conferences with the representatives of the entente nations, how far he might dare to go in the way of humanitarianism. They are willing and eager to confer with him on all matters and doubtless will defer to his judgment in many things, but they have their own very certain ideas as to the treatment that should be accorded the German nation and people.

One of these ideas is that the ex-kaiser must be put on trial for murder and, if found guilty—the "if" might as well be "when"—must be adequately punished. The best legal authorities of England and France agree that William can be extradited from Holland, and there is no doubt that in any event enough pressure could be brought to induce the Dutch to give him up. From the beginning of the war the English and French have determined that William should ultimately be brought to justice personally, and there is ample reason for the depression from which the deposed ruler is said to be suffering at Amerongen. The former crown prince, who, by the way, says he has not yet renounced his rights to the throne, may also be put on trial. He, in his Dutch retreat, has been telling how he and his father were forced into all their outrageous actions by the military elite and Bethmann-Holweg. He also tries to shift to others the blame for the terrible defeats his army sustained.

Another fixed intention of the entente powers is to compel Germany to pay to the limit of her capacity. Her ability to make financial reparation for the damage her armies have done is undoubted. The measures to be adopted by the allies are yet unsettled. Germany's state-owned mineral, coal and potash deposits and railways alone are worth vastly more than the claims of the allies will amount to, and it is not unlikely that those will be seized. In money the country is almost as rich as it was before the war.

This question of reparation brings up the matter of a commercial boycott. Many authorities assert that the only way Germany can pay will be by obtaining raw materials from the countries she has been fighting and selling her products in their markets. Very likely the peace conference will declare against the boycott idea, but it will not be so easy to persuade the peoples of the allied nations to buy German-made goods. Most of them would prefer to see Germany reduced to the position she has earned for herself, to have such money as can be taken from her, and to let the rest of the financial reparation go by the board. Austria, too, is making the loud war for raw materials and markets. Dr. Franz Klein, who will represent at the peace conference the so-called Austrian republic, provided he is admitted, is relying especially on America to be "fair" and to solve the troubles of the late empire so that all the republics can live in peace and prosperity. Some jobs!

Conditions in Germany are almost as uncertain as in Russia after the fall of Kerensky. Just who or what comprises the government it is hard to say. Premier Ebert and his moderate socialist colleagues are still the nominal rulers of Prussia, but Dr. Karl Liebknecht and his Spartacus group of socialists—the German equivalent of the bolsheviks—are vigorously fighting to get the upper hand. They are especially strong in Berlin, which is in a state of great disorder. It is reported that Liebknecht has 15,000 men well armed and is planning a terrorist revolution. He reviles Ebert for asking food from America, for since this is conditioned on the maintenance of order, it is "yielding to a capitalist effort to beat bolshevik aims." Liebknecht's organ, the Red Flag, demands the dismissal of officers and the choosing by soldiers of their leaders; the immediate arming of the revolutionary workmen and the disarming of all other organizations; the destruction of capitalism, the annulment of war loans and the socialization of all business.

The soldiers' and workmen's councils of Germany have demanded that the ex-kaiser be tried by a German tribunal, which would probably be the best he could hope for.

In many parts of Germany there is swift reaction against the bolshevik movement, and it threatens to grow into a counter-revolution, with the possible restoration of the monarchy. This is fostered by many officers and supported by certain units of the army. That it will go far seems quite unlikely. The soldiers and workmen generally, however, seem disposed to support the Ebert government rather than the Spartacus group.

The leaders of the Bavarian republic have induced the Berliners to demand the resignation of Doctor Sell, whose retention as foreign secretary has been one of the puzzles to outsiders, and to exclude Matthias Erzberger from the peace negotiations.

The late leaders of Germany and Austria are quarreling among themselves concerning who was responsible for starting the war, and the present leaders are demanding that this question be settled by an inquiry and the guilty ones punished. How much chance there is of a fair investigation is revealed by the fact, just brought to light, that the German foreign office burned all the documents in the archives that might place the responsibility for the war on the German government. It is interesting to note that Doctor Sell has proposed that a neutral commission inquire into the origin of the war.

The allied armies of occupation continue their march into German territory and are meeting with no resistance and little trouble of any kind. The Germans are not keeping up to schedule in complying with the armistice terms, but say this is impossible in some instances. For instance, they cannot gather the required number of locomotives, and the airplanes called for are being given up where they are instead of being collected and surrendered in a bunch. The last of the Hun submarines have been turned over to the allied fleet and the German navy, whose personnel was denounced by

Admiral Beatty as beneath contempt is now no more.

General Dickman's American army has its headquarters at Treves, and from it reports come that flatly contradict the idea that the Germans are short of food and clothing. The people in the occupied districts are studiously indifferent to the invaders or openly eager to keep up their trade. The French and British have been moving forward in their zones with little incident.

Among the loot already recovered from the Germans is the \$60,000,000 taken from the Russian treasury. The Huns also have returned a rich art collection that was stolen from St. Quentin, and other paintings taken from Valenciennes.

The all-Russian government at Omsk appears to be gaining in stability, but the bolsheviks have not let up in their trouble-making. An irruption of Reds into Estonia has alarmed the government there, murdering, burning and plundering being unhampered. Livonia also has been invaded by them. A call for help by sea was sent out, and a few days ago a British fleet arrived at Libau. The vessels probably will proceed to Revel and land men to stop the slaughter. The bolshevik authorities in western Russia have turned back 1,500,000 Russian soldiers who have been prisoners in Germany, and it was reported that the men had seized four ships at Danzig which the British Red Cross had obtained from Germany for the housing of prisoners.

The Ukrainians and the Poles decline to stop fighting. They are chasing each other back and forth in territory which both claim, and it is difficult to say which has the advantage. Recently the Poles occupied Brest-Litovsk, the town where Germany negotiated the peace treaties with Russia and the Ukraine.

Before President Wilson left the country he delivered his address to congress reassembled for the short session. He paid glowing tribute to the forces of America, military and civilian, which helped win the war, and said he was going across to interpret his ideas of world peace because he considered that was his bounden duty. But he did not give any specific information as to his plans, nor did he so much as mention his colleagues on the peace delegation. In dealing with domestic matters, the president said he was convinced it would be wrong to turn the railroads back to private ownership under present conditions, but that unless congress solved the question in the near future he would relinquish the roads. Other matters that he asked congress to act upon quickly were the revenue bill, the navy building plan and woman suffrage. Secretary Daniels' plan for the navy is for steady and rapid increase of the fleet, for which he asks about \$434,000,000. The estimates submitted to congress by Secretary Baker provide for a regular army of approximately 500,000, but certain items are included that leave the question of the strength of the army open until after the conclusion of peace.

The American troops already are coming back from Europe, the first to arrive, except for the wounded, being the aviation units that were training in England.

As was expected, the president appointed Congressman Carter Glass of Virginia to succeed Mr. McAdoo as secretary of the treasury. He has been chairman of the house committee on banking and currency and his selection for the cabinet position meets with general approval.

While the rest of the world is turning to the ways of peace, Chile and Peru are preparing for war. The ancient quarrel over the provinces of Tacna and Arica has been revived, the people have been insulting and provoking each other and the situation is critical. The armies of the two countries have been ordered to mobilize, and unless wiser counsels prevail hostilities will follow before long. The United States has no intention of intervening in the squabble, but a number of our warships have been dispatched to Valparaiso to protect American interests.

RED CROSS POLICY

Chairman Davison Tells of Work Which the Organization Plans to Accomplish.

NATION IS ASKED TO ENROLL

Week Preceding Christmas Will Be Devoted to Adding to the Membership—Problems of Reconstruction Are Gigantic.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Henry P. Davison, chairman of the war council of the Red Cross, today issued to the 3,854 chapters and the 22,000,000 members the following statement outlining the future policy of the American Red Cross:

"The whole American people will be invited in the week preceding Christmas to enroll as members of the Red Cross. It is confidently believed there need be no further campaigns for Red Cross funds, but instead the annual roll call will constitute the foundation of the Red Cross. The people should, therefore, know as definitely as possible the plans of this their national humanitarian society.

"Wherever our soldiers and sailors may be, the Red Cross will stay with them until they are demobilized. Nothing which we may do will be left undone, either for the men in the war zone, for those returning, for those in the camps and hospitals or for their families at home to whom will continue to be devoted the ministrations of the Red Cross home service.

"The problems of reconstruction, involving feeding and caring for the distressed civilian populations of Europe, are of such magnitude that necessarily they must be met very largely by the governments of our allies, with whom our own government will cooperate.

"The war program of the American Red Cross will thus steadily and rapidly merge itself into a peace program. While the plans in this direction cannot be formulated specifically, in advance of the general relief program of the allied governments, the American Red Cross is nevertheless planning to develop its permanent organization in this country upon a scale never before contemplated in time of peace. The commissions which are now conducting the activities of the American Red Cross in foreign countries, as well as the temporary war organization in this country, will as a matter of course ultimately merge their energies with those of the permanent organization of the Red Cross.

"There may be, therefore, perfect confidence that the peace activities of the Red Cross will be conducted under able and inspiring leadership. The chapters will maintain their organizations upon a scale adequate to the new demands to be made upon them. Local committees will indeed appreciate more and more the value of having in their midst strong and efficient Red Cross chapters. The divisional organizations, with honorary and permanent staffs, will be maintained—always ready for service; and national headquarters will have a large and efficient personnel to direct the activities of the organization as a whole.

"Study is being given by the national organization not alone to problems of international relief, but to plans in this country for enlarged home service, the promotion of public health education, development of nursing, the care and prevention of accidents, and other correlated lines, which may contribute to the health and happiness of men, women and children. Such plans when developed will, it is believed, provide both for world relief and for home community service, and thus constitute a channel for the continued and useful expression by Red Cross workers and members of those qualities of sympathy and love which our whole people have poured out so unstintingly during the war.

"For the completion of its war work and for the institution of its peace program, the Red Cross is fortunately in a healthy financial condition. Abundant occasion for the use of large funds of money and great quantities of garments and other supplies will continue to arise, but it is believed that there will be no further need for intensive campaigns for funds. The work of supplementing governmental activities, which the Red Cross will be called upon to do in all parts of the world, will be upon a great scale, but it will call for human service rather than for large expenditures.

"What the American Red Cross needs now is not so much contributions of money, as the continued devotion and loyalty of its members. This is peculiarly true at this moment of transition from war to peace. Annual membership involves the payment of only one dollar. The moneys thus received not only defray all the administrative expenses of the organization, but leave a substantial balance, which, together with all funds subscribed directly for relief, are devoted solely to that purpose. The roll call of the nation is thus to be called at Christmas time, that through enrollment in their Red Cross the American people may send a message to our soldiers still overseas and to the peoples of the world that we are not only merely content with seeing our arms united with our allies in victory, but that our abiding purpose is that the love, the sympathy and the intelligence of all America shall be rededicated to the permanent service of mankind."