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Burleson Asks U.S. Ownership Of All Wires

Benefit to Public Demonstrated in Temporary Control, Says Annual Report

To Extend Air Service Proposed Routes Expected to Connect New York With Pacific and Canal Zone

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Telephone and telegraph lines of the country, now under government control, should become government owned at the conclusion of peace and the expiration of the provisions of the act under which the utilities are now controlled.

Postmaster General Burleson declares in his annual report, made public today, that the war has shown that government ownership of telephones and telegraphs is not only sound, but practical.

The Postmaster General says, "It has been made in previous reports, but which he makes for the first time as head of the government agency controlling the land communication lines."

"The experiences as a result of the present war have fully demonstrated that the principle of government ownership of the telephones and telegraphs is not only sound, but practical," Mr. Burleson says.

It has been necessary as a war measure for Congress to consider legislation authorizing the President to assume control of the telegraph and telephone systems of the country.

While such control is temporary, and will exist only until the ratification of the treaty of success, yet the best results can be obtained only when these systems are owned by the government.

Approximately \$14,300,000 additional was paid over to the Treasury from the increased postal charges imposed for war revenue.

Total revenues of the department from all sources during the year are given as \$388,975,000, against \$329,000,000 in 1917.

Operations of the Postoffice Department for the fiscal year ended last June 30, resulted in a surplus of receipts over expenses of \$19,929,798.

726,115 for the 1917 fiscal year. Total expenditures are reported at \$324,883,728, against \$319,838,718 in 1917.

Disregarding the increased postal rates of effective November 2, under the war tax bill, the actual increase in postal service business during the year is placed at 4.7 per cent, while expenditures increased 1.86 per cent.

Mr. Burleson for the first time officially reports upon the use of airplanes for transmission of mail, and government-owned trucks for the operation of rural parcels-post routes.

He also renews his previous recommendation that postmasters general and the purchasing agent should be likewise selected.

The volume of mail carried during the year was greater than ever before, and the Postoffice facilities alike upon the surplus earned, which is placed at more than double the greatest profit ever found by the department.

War activity in private business not alone grew, but the government itself put a tremendous burden of matter into the mails from the new efforts which it built up.

Postmaster general and the purchasing agent were used for war service, that ranged from the registration of aliens to the sale of shell stamps and government bonds.

Among new facilities, the report asks for an appropriation of \$1,500,000 for the construction of a subway between the Grand Central Station in New York and the Pennsylvania Terminal office.

Such a line would be a great convenience, and devised to relieve congestion. Authority is also asked for the establishment of a guarantee fund within the department with which bond employees handling money and valuables.

This is advocated to relieve premium charges, which are said by the report to be excessive, and also to eliminate delay and difficulty.

Military Mails Delayed Dealing with complaint of delays in mail for soldiers in France, both before and after the mail service was taken over by the army.

Mr. Burleson's report says that much of it was due to the handling of mail by orderlies in military service.

"Perhaps the most serious of those delays arose from the attitude of the military authorities," it says, "who declined to reveal to a civilian postal organization the whereabouts of military units in many cases, until their location had been discovered by the enemy."

There was also a good deal of trouble in obtaining motor transport, and at one time the military authorities undertook to take from the postal mail the small details of enlisted men who were assisting in the work on the ground that they were needed for purely military service.

In the United States, 123 branch postoffices were established at camps and encampments to deliver mail to the troops. Conscription boards were established nearly all parts of exit from the United States in connection with military operations, and 1,600 employees were engaged in carrying approximately 125,000 pieces of mail daily during most of the period covered by the report.

The report discloses a programme for the very wide extension of the aeroplane mail service, including two routes outside the United States, which has been successfully operated between Washington, Philadelphia and New York since May 5, 1918.

Though the subject of airmail had previously been given considerable study and a number of spasmodic flights with mail had been undertaken for purposes of exhibition, it was only with careful planning that this route that transportation of mail by aeroplane became a permanent and practical feature of the postal service.

Describing this service, the report says: "One round trip daily, except Sunday, by postal aeroplanes carrying mail is being made without fail. The trip from Washington to New York is performed on an average in two hours and thirty minutes, and from New York to Washington in two hours and fifty minutes, the difference in time being due to resistance offered by the prevailing winds which are usually from a westerly direction.

A stop for the exchange of mail on each trip is made at Philadelphia. An average of seven and three-fourths tons of letter mail is being carried each month.

"The Aerial Mail Service was inaugurated with the cooperation of the War Department, which furnished the machines and aviators and conducted the flying and maintenance operations. This cooperation, which was of incalculable value, was maintained until August 12, when the entire operation was taken over by the Postoffice Department and the work performed by the War Department with its own equipment and personnel.

The task which the army had undertaken was new and full of untried problems. A few flights in the beginning were defaulted, partially abandoned, or interrupted by stormy weather, but gradually the service settled down to an absolutely reliable routine. The high percentage of daily perfect flights which the army succeeded in establishing is being maintained by the Postoffice Department regardless of weather conditions.

"The Washington-New York route has served as a working laboratory in which the many unknown factors that enter into the maintenance of a daily aerial service are being successfully solved."

Air Routes to South America "The trunk lines and feeders described upon for the aerial mail," the Postmaster General says, after describing experimental operations between Washington, New York and Philadelphia, "under the present programme are: (1) New York to San Francisco, with feeders from (a) Chicago to St. Louis and Kansas City, (b) Chicago to St. Paul and Minneapolis, (c) Cleveland to Pittsburgh.

(2) Boston to Key West, with feeders from (a) Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, (b) Washington to Cincinnati, (c) Atlanta to New Orleans.

(3) Key West, via Havana to Panama.

(4) Key West, via the West Indies, to South America."

Regarding the aerial route to South America, Mr. Burleson says: "Negotiations looking to the conclusion of special aerial mail conventions between the United States and the foreign countries involved for the establishment of these routes to the West Indies and Central and South America are now in progress. It is realized that these overseas routes will require the most powerful aeroplanes, with wireless installation and special construction to make them safe over the sea, but the enormous commercial advantage that will result by materially reducing the time between this country and Central and South America will justify the expenditure that such a service will entail."

"In the conduct of the service now in operation and the preliminary work on the routes to be established immediately upon the termination of the war, the Postoffice Department is receiving whole-hearted support from the War Department, Navy Department, National Aeronautical Advisory Board, Bureau of Standards, Weather Bureau and Geodetic Survey, besides much local assistance from committees, individuals and aero clubs in this country."

Powerful Planes Needed "The Postoffice Department only awaits the day when the aircraft production of this country can more than supply the needs of our own army and those of our Allies to make effective the programme for airmail that I have directed to be put into operation as speedily as war conditions will permit," Mr. Burleson continues.

He points out that planes for the overseas service decided upon must be powerful, fitted with wireless and of special construction, and declares that the commercial advantage resulting from the expansion and extension of communication between South and Central America will justify the expense.

Discussing the rural truck lines and the expected requirement by the department of many hundreds of war trucks, the report says that the commercial and economic advantage of the service is evident and its extension desirable. The transmission of food products from farms to urban centers is particularly facilitated by the motorized parcel post lines.

Due to enlistments and high wages in outside service, 9,078 postal employees left government employment during the year, the report says, necessitating extra efforts in training new recruits. Of the number leaving the service, 4,898 resigned for other employment, or 12.4 per cent of the entire force, but the report says that increased army activity and the extension made under new laws will guarantee the maintenance of an efficient force.

Postal savings bank deposits increased \$16,516,903 during the year, raising the total of these deposits to \$148,471,490.

Gregory Tells How U. S. Foiled Enemy Aliens

Secret Service Six Times as Large as It Was When the War Began, Attorney General Says in His Report

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The story of how enemy agents have been caught, disloyalty suppressed, draft slackers apprehended, dangerous Germans interned, explosions and other sabotage prevented, and enemy secrets ferreted out for use against their armies abroad, was given to the public today in Attorney General T. W. Gregory's annual report.

Referring to enforcement of the espionage act, Mr. Gregory said: "This department throughout the war has proceeded upon the general principle that the constitutional right of free speech, free assembly, and petition to Congress, and the right of peace time, and that the right of discussion of governmental policy and the right of political agitation are the most fundamental rights in a democracy."

"One of the distinct achievements of the American people," he said, "has been the maintenance of order, the cooperative efforts of every citizen in the suppression of espionage, the general self-control and self-restraint exhibited throughout the country in critical situations."

Only 6,500 Enemy Aliens Arrested The Attorney General disclosed that only 6,500 enemy aliens have been arrested on Presidential warrants and confined with a view to internment, and that "a considerable number of these have been placed in internment camps administered by the army."

The balance were paroled. Most enemies interned were German men, and there were comparatively few German women or Austro-Hungarians. About 480,000 Germans have been registered in the nation-wide census, 250,000 men and 230,000 women.

In the last June, Department of Justice investigators had rounded up 493 enemy aliens, and since that time they have arrested more than 220,000 men who for some reasons or other had failed to file questionnaires to appear for physical examination and be investigated.

War activities claimed the principal portions of the report, and after referring to the growth of the department, Mr. Gregory said: "It is my duty to say that never in its history has this country been so thoroughly policed as at the present time."

"When it becomes possible, through the lapse of time, to undertake fully the activities of these various secret services, their work will stand out as one of the substantial achievements of the war."

Hints at Espionage System Hints of an American espionage system were given in the statement that the secret services "have given protection not only to the civilian population, but to the armed forces, and some of their activities have resulted in direct damage to the enemy forces abroad."

"Systematic disloyal propaganda became a feature during the first year of the war," he said. "Shortly after our entry into the war this propaganda, supported chiefly by those influences and organizations which had opposed the declaration of war, manifested itself in distinct opposition to the adoption and operation of the selective service act, but this type of propaganda was almost immediately suppressed and destroyed. It was followed by manifestations of propaganda of an economic and social character, clearly supported in the main by sympathizers with the enemy forces. This general type of propaganda reached its height in the autumn of 1917, but gained no great headway and was declining by January 1, 1918."

Less than 1 per cent of the enemy aliens arrested on suspicion and later paroled have again fallen under suspicion. Of the 75,000 enemy aliens applying for permission to complete prices and methods of distribution may become essential in order to prevent private control of markets, for which natural laws of trade can no longer be depended upon to regulate markets, the only choice is between artificial control imposed by private interests and artificial control imposed by public services. In these circumstances, therefore, such direct governmental action, so far from running counter to the purpose of the Sherman act, is directly in line with it."

Mr. Gregory's recommendations propose legislation to make a Federal warrant run to any part of the United States, so that indicted individuals cannot escape trial so easily. The retirement of Federal judges at the age of seventy if they have served ten years or more; legislation to make it an offense to send through the mails letters threatening life or property; tightening up of bankruptcy laws, and legislation making it possible to sue a corporation in any district in which it transacts business.

Brig. Gen. Greene, Philippine Commander, Asks Retirement SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 5.—Brigadier General Henry A. Greene, commanding the Department of the Philippines, and at the same time in command of the First Division, National Army, at Camp Lewis, Washington, when it was ordered overseas, has asked to be retired after more than forty years of service, officials of the Western Department of the army announced here today.

Mysteries of Margins Between Wholesale and Retail Prices

Concerning the Bargain Offered in Lamb Stew

Edited by ANNE LEWIS PIERCE, Director of the Tribune Institute

THE PROFITS ON COMMON VEGETABLES LIGHT is beginning to dawn on the mystery concerning the slow sale of the winter vegetables—potatoes, onions, cabbages, turnips, squash and the like. The price asked for them doesn't coincide with their desirability. Making all due allowance for loss, both from spoilage and in weighing, the margins allowed by the Federal Food Board seem over-generous and the market prices soar even above these.

For example: Cabbages are wholesaling for 2 cents a pound, and are allowed to sell for 4, a 100 per cent mark up, whereas we have been led to believe that a 33 to 50 per cent mark up was a legitimate retail margin on such staples. Not content with this the market asks 5 cents a pound for cabbage! The casual observer doubtless regards a cabbage as a sturdy member of the vegetable family—we are told that it is more delicate than it looks by far, and wilts, freezes and bruises readily, and, as you do not carve a cabbage, much is lost in overweighting as sold. This depends on the dealer. Willing as we are to acknowledge the losses and expenses involved in retail service, 5 cents for a cabbage that costs 2 seems out of all proportion.

Consider the erstwhile humble onion, wholesaling at 1 1/4 cents a pound and retailing at 3 by Federal permission, but really selling under market conditions for 5. The fanciest of yellow onions sells wholesale for 2 1/4 cents—5 cents is more than 100 per cent mark up. At the All-Package Stores onions were selling for 3 pounds for 10 cents, which would seem a far fairer price.

Potatoes are allowed a mark up of 1 cent—3 1/2 wholesale to 4 1/2 cents a pound retail for Long Island No. 1 stock, and the retail price in the market paralleled this. A 33 per cent mark up, as in this case, coincides with our hopes and expectations. Cheaper potatoes, Mountain stock, are to be had for 3 1/4 cents a pound.

Granting that the cabbages and onions are subject to greater losses and to shrinkage even to the extent of 25 per cent, there still seems to be no justification for a 100 per cent mark up, leaving a 75 per cent margin where a 33 to 50 per cent difference between wholesale and retail prices has been usual.

The perishability of any food, of course, increases the margin needed to handle it. What is left must bear the burden of the fruit, fish or vegetable that spoiled on the retailer's hands, or which came to him spoiled due to careless, irresponsible packing and grading "no state." But with the best good will in the world to take account of the retailer's burdens these prices and margins seem not only extreme but suicidal, for people will not buy these coarser foods at such prices and the demand speedily falls off.

In the same class may be found squash, Hubbard best, wholesaling at 5 to 8 cents and retailing at 25 to 35, and turnips at 1 1/4 cents wholesale and 4 cents retail. Sweet potatoes, like the whites, show more reasonable condition, wholesaling for 4.5 cents and retailing for 6, a fair mark up of 33 per cent.

Supply and demand is apt to deal with this situation sharply if no other power does, for people will not pay such prices freely for vegetables of this type. On the other hand, the desire of the retailer to handle smaller amounts of foods at a wider margin of profit may drive what should be the cheaper foods largely from the market. From such a dilemma apparently only municipal markets could afford relief.

FISH ON HAND In the fish market, Spanish mackerel is wholesaling at 11 cents and retailing at 25. Boston mackerel, by virtue of its name, flavor and scarceness, wholesales at 25 and retails at 35. Flounder, small cods and haddock all at 18 cents, and cod steaks, sea bass and white fish at 25 cents are all reasonable for this time of year. Kingfish of delicious flavor is a new arrival and sells for 30 cents in the downtown market and 60 cents uptown. So much for eating a traveled kingfish in a vicinity where it is especially appreciated.

THE MEAT MARGINS The official food bulletins displayed in the retail shops allow margins of 11 cents on chuck steaks and stewing beef, 22 cents on the "cut cross rib," 15 cents on sirloin steak and loin lamb chops, 12 cents on leg of lamb and a margin of minus 4 cents on lamb stew. This does not mean that the butcher pays you 4 cents to carry it away, but it does mean that he sells it at, say, 22 cents a pound, when he paid for the whole carcass at the rate of 26 cents a pound. Of course, the more desirable cuts divide between them this loss, but the prices are so averaged to increase the demand for the stewing meat, which seems to be despised of all, and to provide the poor man with a cheaper meat if he is willing to eat it.

The prices charged in the market for high-class meats fairly met the Federal Food Board requirements and in some cases were lower, despite superior quality. Always in comparing these prices as posted it must be remembered that untrimmed cuts are described; higher quality and more service mean added price. Sirloin steak of best quality sold for 45 to 48 cents, prime rib roast for 48 cents and stewing beef for 28 cents (Federal Food Board price, 25 to 33).

Any one who, camouflage quality, marks up lower grade meats to the prices named by the bulletins can be readily proved at fault by the inspectors on checking up the wholesale prices paid and by expert examination of the meats. A purchaser suspicious of such treatment should report the matter at once to the Food Board.

A Brooklyn butcher avowedly handling lightweight meats sells fairly for much lower prices than those shown on his posted bulletin. For instance, 35 cents for sirloin steak, instead of 44; 32 for prime rib roast instead of 45, and 35 for loin lamb chops instead of 39; 32 for rib chops instead of 36. This shows how much an honest man may undersell the listed prices if he deals squarely with his customers as to quality.

After all, "Know Your Butcher" is the best solution for the layman, but a little information on the side will do no harm.

(The market column appears on Fridays)

IF A SAUCE

with an appetizing flavor makes a rump steak taste better than a tenderloin, it's an economy sauce. That's what

LEA & PERRINS SAUCE

will do, every time. Try it.

10 Killed, 100 Injured, In Chilean Earthquake

Railway Lines Destroyed and Hundreds of Homes Are in Ruins

BUENOS AYRES, Dec. 5.—Latest reports from Northern Chile, where a severe earthquake occurred Wednesday, are that ten persons are dead and 100 injured. The earthquake was felt most severely in the district between Talca and Copiapo.

Railway lines were destroyed at many points. Hundreds of homes are reported to be in ruins. The damage is said to be serious throughout the province of Antofagasta and the southern part of Antofagasta province. A tidal wave at Caldera, south of Antofagasta, caused heavy damage and destroyed the harbor works.

McCall Announces Plans

BOSTON, Dec. 5.—Governor McCall announced today that when he returns on January 15 he would devote himself to heavy work and to the resumption of his law practice.



Low Meat Prices vs. High Cattle Prices

If the farmer cannot get enough for his live stock, he raises less, and the packer gets less raw material. If the consumer has to pay too much for his meat, he eats less of it, and the packer finds his market decreased. The packer wants the producer to get enough to make live-stock raising profitable, and he wants the price of meat so low that everyone will eat it.

But all he can do, and what he would have to do in any case to stay in business, is to keep down the cost of processing the farmer's stock into meat so that the consumer pays for the meat and by-products only a little more than the farmer gets for his animals.

For example, last year Swift & Company paid for its cattle about 90 per cent of what it got for meat and by-products (such as hides, tallow, oils, etc.)

If cattle from the farm were turned miraculously into meat in the hands of retailers (without going through the expense of dressing, shipping and marketing), the farmer would get only about 1 1/2 cents per pound more for his cattle, or consumers would pay only about 2 1/4 cents per pound less for their beef!

Out of this cent or two per pound, Swift & Company pays for the operation of extensive plants, pays freight on meats, operates refrigerator cars, maintains branch houses, and in most cases, delivers to retailers all over the United States. The profit amounts to only a fraction of a cent, and a part of this profit goes to build more plants, to give better service, and to increase the company's usefulness to the country.

Keep Your Pledge Make Good for Our Fighting Men BUY WAR-SAVING STAMPS

Ten Wholesale Distributing Markets in Greater New York Central Office, 32 Tenth Avenue G. L. Edwards, District Manager

Swift & Company, U.S.A.

Buy This Christmas Gift NOW A Box of Holeproof Hosiery

Freedom from holes, darning and unnecessary expense accompanies your Xmas Gift when you give Holeproof Hosiery. Particularly appropriate for gift purposes right now when patriotic Americans are trying to eliminate wasteful giving. One pair of HOLEPROOFS will probably outwear two pairs of any other hosiery sold at similar prices.

For Men—\$2.00 to \$6.00 the Half Dozen For Women—\$3.00 to \$7.00 the Half Dozen

Bill Brothers 1456 Broadway 279 Broadway 2 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn 125th Street at 3d Avenue 44 East 14th St. 47 Cortland St.

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The Weather Report Local Official Record: The following official report from the Weather Bureau shows temperatures during the last twenty-four hours, in comparison with the corresponding date of last year.

Table with columns for Date, Time, and Temperature. Rows include 12-hourly and 24-hourly averages for Dec 5, 1918, and Dec 5, 1917.

Local Forecast: Fair and cold to-night; warmer tomorrow.

The DIET During and After INFLUENZA Horlick's Malted Milk Very Nutritious, Digestible. The REAL Food-Drink, instantly prepared. Made by the ORIGINAL Horlick process and from carefully selected materials. Used successfully over 1/4 century. Endorsed by physicians everywhere. Specify Horlick's The Original Others Are Imitations