

WOULD HAVE GOVERNMENT OWN TELEGRAPH AND 'PHONE

Washington, Dec. 18.—Government ownership of the telegraph and telephone lines of the country was advocated by Postmaster General Burleson in his annual report.

"A study of the constitutional purposes of the postal establishment leads to the conviction that the post-office department should have control over all means of communication of intelligence," he declared. "The first telegraph line in this country was maintained and operated as a part of the postal service, and it is to be regretted that congress saw fit to relinquish this facility to private enterprise. The monopolistic nature of the telegraph business makes it of vital importance to the people that it be conducted by unselfish interests, and this can be accomplished only through government ownership.

"The act of July 24, 1866, providing for the government acquisition of the telegraph lines upon payment of an appraised valuation, and the act of 1902, directing the postmaster general to report to congress the probable cost of connecting a telegraph and telephone system with the postal service by some feasible plan," are evidences of the policy of this government ultimately to acquire and operate these electrical means of communication as postal facilities, as is done by all the principal nations, the United States alone excepted."

The postmaster general told President Wilson that inasmuch as there exists at present a real surplus in his department the time will soon be ripe for one-cent postage, and that with the reduction of the postal rate there should be initiated comprehensive plans for taking over at least the telegraph lines and possibly the telephone lines.

The postoffice department is already operating the Alaskan cable and making money on it.

First Assistant Postmaster General

Roper said: "I feel that the English law decisions holding that a telegram is a letter, and that the telephone, to all intents and purposes is the telegraph, will sustain the government in any move for government ownership."

MAYOR PRACTICALLY KILLS RESOLUTION OF UNEMPLOYED

The following resolution was presented to the mayor and council last night by the agitation committee of the unemployed:

"Whereas, We, the unemployed people of the city of Chicago, have reached the conclusion that it is your duty as chief executive of said city to immediately do something practical; and

"Whereas, We require and demand immediate employment; therefore be it.

"Resolved, That we demand and command, from this city and its head executive, employment, not charity, said employment to be remunerated at full union rate of wages."

The council promptly killed the resolution by referring it to the mayor's commission on unemployment.

A mass meeting will be held tonight at the 21st Ward Branch Socialist Hall as a protest against the action of the mayor and council.

BITS OF NEWS

Harold P. Schneider on trial for murder of Joseph H. Logue, diamond broker.

Case of Hugo Bohm charged with killing sweetheart, Jennie Smith, went to jury today.

La Caire, Wis.—Dr. Peter McKittrick, 49, dead.

Winnipeg, Man.—Capt. A. S. Prescott, 84, civil war veteran, dead.

Cleveland.—\$25,000 worth of property belonging to members of Nat'l Erectors Ass'n destroyed by vandals in last few months.