

POSTAL TELEGRAPHY.

The President of the Western Union Before the Senate Committee.

His Statement in Opposition to Government Control.

Interesting Presentation of the Inside Management of Telegraph Lines, Home and Foreign.

Gardner G. Hubbard Proposes to Prove Dr. Green's Figures Fallacious.

Dr. Norvin Green, president of the Western Union Telegraph company, addressed the senate committee on postoffice and post roads yesterday in opposition to the proposed governmental control of the telegraph. He said he would confine himself to the question of policy as to whether it was worth while for the government to undertake the telegraph business.

The government systems of Europe had been established, with the exception of that of England, as a protection for the governments, as a means of learning what was going on, and of defeating conspirators. Under this government no necessary protection existed for such a course. Unless there was something defective in the service rendered there seemed to be no reason why the government should take hold of the telegraph. He maintained that we had telegraphic facilities in larger proportion to population, a better service, and a cheaper service than in any country of Europe, and he was prepared to substantiate that in any careful investigation.

Dr. Green gave many illustrations of the reductions in rates which had followed the various consolidations of telegraph rival companies, and stated that reductions were the rule as a result of consolidation. There was but one exception, the consolidation of the Western Union and the New York and New Jersey telegraph companies, which competition had pushed down the rates below the point where business could be done with profit, and they had necessarily been raised. Even then, he said, the rates which had been reduced by competition were reduced to make them harmonize with those which had.

He explained the apparently cheaper rates of Europe by saying that there a message was counted once in every country through which it passed, while in this country it was counted twice.

Press matter, moreover, was dropped at many points in the United States and delivered as so many messages, while only one copy filed was counted—thirty words counted as a message. He cited the [Senator Hill] asked further explanation. He thought the statement an extraordinary one and referred to the rates of France being only 20 cents for twenty words within the limits of that country, and an average of 1 cent a word in other European countries. He cited the rates from France to Algiers, two thousand miles, which were only 20 cents for twenty words.

Dr. Green replied that the Algiers line was counted at a loss. The employees were hired for a much cheaper rate, and even then the service was done at a loss. No company could send twenty words for 20 cents without loss. In this country operators were paid higher rates, material was more expensive, and all the cost of construction was greater. A new tariff was in process of preparation to go into effect on the first of March, giving a maximum rate of \$1 for which sum a message could be sent four thousand five hundred miles, from Halifax to Washington territory.

Dr. Green, referring to the press contracts, said he would furnish the committee with a copy of the contract with the associated press. It contained, he said, a clause that no cheaper rates could be made with any other association without giving the associated press the advantage of the concession. Some papers had complained because the Western Union could not furnish them news at the same rates their neighbors were receiving. It was from the associated press. It was not from the Western Union. They could get cheaper work done by association, and that the Western Union company could not transmit press dispatches to a single paper at as low a rate as it could carry the dispatches of an association. Dispatches from Washington to New Orleans, for example, were dropped at sixteen different points along the line. A contract had recently been made with another press association, the name of which he could not recall. He would send the committee copies of both contracts. A careful estimate of the cost of press work performed by the Western Union showed an average of 64 cents per 100 words.

Dr. Green said the excess of social telegram in Switzerland, Belgium, France and other countries of Europe was greater than that of this country. Millions of wealthy tourists were there every year with no other business than to enjoy themselves, and nothing but social affairs to telegraph about.

Referring to the talk about accumulated wealth in the hands of individuals and corporations, Dr. Green said he had become satisfied that the great power of England consisted in the wealth of her citizens. Much of that capital was invested abroad, and about \$100,000,000 of revenue was derived from it. Much of it going from this country. In his early manhood there was not a man in this country possessed of a million dollars. In these days our own men of wealth were increasing in number, and the revenues therefrom were extended at home. It would be better, he said, if this wealth were more evenly distributed. Everybody knew that the western railroads had been built ten years in advance of their necessities, and that they were now overbuilt.

With reference to the capitalization of the Western Union company, he said it made no difference with the rates. If no profit was made, it was all the same whether the capital was small or great. There had been capitalization of stock since 1858 without a representation in values. In conclusion, he asked that the Western Union be heard before the committee through an attorney, and that the committee fix a day when it would hear Mr. Evans.

Mr. Gardner G. Hubbard, who was present, stated to the committee that he desired to be heard, and would attempt to controvert some of the points made by Dr. Green.

Dr. Green had said that unless something was done to the service no reason existed for government interference. He would undertake to show that there was something defective in the Western Union service; that its rates were excessive—in other words, if they had a rate not exceeding 90 cents for the first mile, and 10 cents for each additional mile, and that they were not better than at their present rates, and that one company could not serve the country when it was allowed to capitalize as rapidly as it pleased without reference to the value of its property.

An Unknown Suicide. NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—A young man, about 32 years of age, who registered himself as "C. H. Harley, Pa.," committed suicide to-day at the Commodore hotel, Chambers street and West Broadway, by shooting himself in the right temple. When found this evening he was lying on his bed fully dressed. He had been dead some time. He had not been seen by any one after he went up to his room last night. The door of his room was locked and bolted. He had evidently destroyed everything which would furnish a clue to his identity. In his pocket was found \$20 in money, a knife, and a bunch of keys. The suicide had full, regular features and wore a small light-brown moustache. His clothing was of a good material.

Crushed by the Snow. HAMILTON, Ont., Jan. 31.—Four wooden dwellings on Napier street caved in from the weight of snow on the roof. The end house is a complete wreck. Mr. Burns and child were seriously injured, but no lives were lost.

A Large Labor Petition Coming. PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 31.—James G. Campbell and John G. Slicker, of the Window Glass Workers' association, left here for Washington to-night to present Congressman

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THE SHOTGUN POLICY.

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For Rent--Rooms.

1619 K ST. N. W.—HANDSOMELY FURNISHED communicating rooms, with bath, open fireplace, southern exposure, 100 ft. view, \$10 per week. Apply 1619 K St. N. W.

531 13TH ST. N. W.—ROOMS ON 1ST AND 2ND FLOORS, single or on suite, on front porch, bath, open fireplace, southern exposure, 100 ft. view, \$10 per week. Apply 531 13th St. N. W.

1235 7TH ST. N. W.—DESIRABLE UNFURNISHED parlor and bedroom, suitable for a family, with bath, open fireplace, southern exposure, 100 ft. view, \$10 per week. Apply 1235 7th St. N. W.

1200 NEWLY FURNISHED 2-STORY ROOMS, with bath, open fireplace, southern exposure, 100 ft. view, \$10 per week. Apply 1200 New York Ave. N. W.

718 12TH ST. N. W.—TWO UNFURNISHED COMMUNICATING rooms on 2d floor, rent \$10 per week, including gas and water. Apply 718 12th St. N. W.

1200 NEATLY FURNISHED ROOMS, SINGLE OR ON SUITE, southern exposure, 1419 Colorado St. N. W.

FURNISHED ROOMS—FINE BEDROOM AND BATH, parlor, with heat and gas and all modern improvements, in new house, for \$10, at 37 1/2 St. N. E.

421 6TH ST. N. W.—FURNISHED ROOMS, single or on suite, with open fireplace and private bath, southern exposure, 1419 Colorado St. N. W.

1221 10TH ST. N. W.—A LARGE, NICELY FURNISHED parlor, with open fireplace, with or without board; modern improvements, very reasonable. Apply 1221 10th St. N. W.

FURNISHED AND UNFURNISHED BUTTRESS for housekeeping, on 2d, 3d, and 4th floors, two doors from 7th St. 641 E. N. W.

A CHEERFUL SITTING ROOM AND BED-ROOM, with open fireplace, with heat and gas, suitable for one or two gentlemen; rent \$15, 1221 10th St. N. W.

ROOMS AND BATH, in cozy little office, with open fireplace, and the congeniality of almost any reasonable. Address M. A. K., Republican office.

LEGANTLY FURNISHED ROOMS, EN SUITE, single or on suite, with open fireplace, with or without board; modern improvements, 1317 F St. N. W.

1120 N. Y. AV., CORNER 12TH ST. N. W.—FURNISHED parlor and bedroom, with bath, open fireplace, southern exposure, 100 ft. view, \$10 per week. Apply 1120 N. Y. Av.

1097 VERNON ST. N. W.—BEAUTIFUL ROOMS, on suite or single on 2d floor, with open fireplace, southern exposure, 100 ft. view, \$10 per week. Apply 1097 Vernon St. N. W.

ONE LARGE SOUTH FRONT FURNISHED ROOM, with or without board; private family; modern improvements; excellent view of the city. Apply 1200 N. W.

TO GENTLEMEN—2 FURNISHED ROOMS, comfortable in all respects, location convenient to business, rent reasonable, 1200 N. W.

818 18TH ST. N. W.—TWO ELEGANTLY FURNISHED parlor and bedroom, with bath, open fireplace, southern exposure, 100 ft. view, \$10 per week. Apply 818 18th St. N. W.

1339 15TH ST. N. W.—TWO ELEGANTLY FURNISHED parlor and bedroom, with bath, open fireplace, southern exposure, 100 ft. view, \$10 per week. Apply 1339 15th St. N. W.

FURNISHED HALL, BEDROOM, WITH BATH, 801 12th St. N. W.

TWO LARGE FURNISHED ROOMS, 1st FLOOR, parlor and bedroom, \$10, and 2 large unfurnished rooms, 2d floor, \$20, with heat and gas, 224 11th St. N. W.

NICELY FURNISHED ROOMS IN CHEVY CHASE, near 14th St. and Columbia Road, 50 cents per day; parlor, with open fireplace, 211 14th St. N. W.

ONE NEARBY FURNISHED ROOM, single or on suite, modern improvements, 7-1.

1214 K ST. N. W.—TWO LARGE, COMFORTABLE rooms, newly furnished, 200 cents per day; parlor, with open fireplace, 211 14th St. N. W.

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