

## POSTAL COMPANY REDUCES RATES

Local Manager Receives Formal Announcement From Clarence H. Mackay.

Telegraph rates over the wires of the Postal Telegraph and Cable company were reduced 20 per cent at midnight Thursday. The formal announcement of this fact was made public Thursday night by Clarence H. Mackay, president of the Postal Telegraph company.

His statement to Miss L. McNeff, manager of the local branch, is as follows: "In accordance with its promise to the public, the Postal Telegraph and Cable company will reduce telegraph rates 20 per cent at midnight Thursday throughout the United States, thereby cutting off the 20 per cent increase which Postmaster Gen. Burleson put into effect April 1, and which will continue leased wires."

"It will restore the rates to what they were before Mr. Burleson seized the lines. In doing this we wish to state that if taxes and expenses continue to increase, it will be necessary for the company to ask the indulgence of the public in again advancing telegraph rates for a whole or a part of this 20 per cent in order to continue to give fast service.

### Reductions Later.

The present rates in interstate night lettergrams will not be disturbed for the present, but we expect to reduce these rates a little later.

The return of these wires tonight to their owners marks the end of an epoch, and a fight of this company against a powerful effort by the postmaster general and our opponents, the Bell Telephone company and the Western Union company, to eliminate the competition of the Postal Telegraph and Cable company.

"It was a fight waged against heavy odds, but we had the whole-hearted support of the public and the press, and for their assistance we are deeply grateful."

### To Increase Business.

The local manager stated that every effort would be made to take care of the increased volume of business which they expect as a result of the big decrease in rates.

In a statement on the stand of the Western Union, Mr. Carlton said:

Try NEWS-TIMES Want Ads.

## Mexico's Agrarian Laws Forebode Heavy U. S. Loss

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—More than a thousand Americans are threatened with loss of millions of dollars of investments by a new agrarian law enacted by the congress of Sonora, Mexico, at the direct instruction of Gov. Calles.

Several American companies have already filed complaints with the state department against the operation of this law and other complaints are in preparation. The department is preparing representations to the Carranza government against putting the law into operation because it works upon United States citizens who have invested many millions in agricultural lands in Sonora.

By the terms of the law it is provided that the state will pay for lands expropriated with agrarian bonds issued by the state, redeemable at a time and manner to be stipulated later. The new constitution of Mexico provides that the state shall issue agrarian bonds under authority of a law that has not yet been enacted by the federal congress. The Americans point out in their complaints to the state department that these bonds are of no value and inasmuch as the national government of Mexico has not paid there is no indication that the agrarian bonds will be of any value.

The alternative for the American holders of these lands is to sell them to Mexicans and take pay in 20 annual installments of Mexican money. Any dispute is to be left in the hands of the governor, who may act arbitrarily.

The Western Union wires reach 22,225 separate communities. The only other telegraph system reaches 1,700 communities, or less than eight per cent of the total number served by the Western Union.

Offices in over 20,000 small communities exclusively served by our wires are unprofitable to the company, yet such offices are essential to the country at large, and must be maintained.

### Pays Better Wages.

Needs of Western Union employees for higher wages, he said, were recognized and they represented 66 per cent of the total cost of providing the service. He declared the Western Union would strive to pay its employees commensurate with the high cost of living and would "ask a very moderate and wholly defensible income" in return "for serving the whole public."

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 1.—Western Union officials here have been advised that a petition filed with the Missouri public utilities commission requesting permission to maintain present rates for a period of 60 days after the return of their business to private control tonight has been granted. In its petition, the company stated that rates prior to the war increase of 20 per cent would not be profitable now and a schedule that the extension of time be granted so that the commission might determine rates which are to be charged under private control.

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## News of City's Business World

### CLEARANCE DAY ATTRACTS MANY

Merchants Are Well Pleased With Results Obtained—Rain Fails to Interfere.

Although early morning showers interfered somewhat, South Bend merchants were well pleased with the results of the "Final July Clearance" day, a featured Interurban day yesterday. Brisk business was enjoyed in practically all of the stores, which had advertised special bargains in the newspapers to attract the out-of-town shoppers. Many visitors were in the city from surrounding towns, attracted by the opportunities to save money on all branches of merchandise.

The results of "Final July Clearance" day encouraged members of the retail merchants bureau of the

Western Union.

Chamber of Commerce to a still greater effort for the success of future Interurban days. A number of other special days are to be celebrated in the near future, the most important of which is Dollar day on Aug. 21. Dealers are making great preparations for this event. It is a semi-annual bargain day feature in South Bend that has never failed to be a tremendous success, attracting thousands of out-of-town shoppers as well as the people of South Bend and Mishawaka.

### For Sales Next.

For sales and the customary August bargain events of all kinds are the next features on the merchandising calendar in South Bend.

Many stores are now advertising for exhibits of more than ordinary interest to the well dressed woman.

Several stores will hold informal openings today and during the balance of the week. The August fair sales are rapidly growing in popularity from year to year. Women may buy their furs now and have them stored without charge until fall. Other inducements offered are liberal payment plans, and the fact that prices are much lower now than they will be later.

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