

**POSTAL COMPANY**

**REDUCES RATES**

New York, July 31.—When control of the telegraph systems of the country is formally relinquished by the government at midnight, a reduction of 20 per cent. in rates will be made immediately on the lines of the Postal Company, but the Western Union will retain the schedule put into effect after Postmaster General Burleson took control April 1.

Clarence H. Mackay, president of the Postal, announced in a statement late today that the rates would be made in accordance with its promise to the public. He qualified the announcement, however, by saying that if expenses continue to mount charges might have to go with them.

Newcomb Carlton, president of the Western Union, who also has been in charge of the cable systems controlled by the government since last December, declared on other hand: "We can not see our way clear to do better than we are doing at this time."

Neither would discuss the possibility of long continued "rate war."

In his announcement Mr. Mackay explained that the 20 per cent. reduction represented the increase which Postmaster General Burleson put into effect, including leased wire rates, and that the rates would be restored to what they were before the government took over the lines.

Present rates on night letters, he said, would not be disturbed, but probably would be reduced later. The head of the Postal Company said the return of the wires to their owners marked the end of "a powerful effort by the postmaster general and Bell Telephone-Western Union Companies to eliminate the competition of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Com-

pany."

Mr. Carlton of the Western Union said his company was maintaining more than 20,000 offices in small communities that were unprofitable in order to serve the public and that it was "striving to pay its employees wages commensurate with the high cost of living."

**CUMMINGS LAUGHS**

**AT REPUBLICANS**

Washington, July 31.—Homer S. Cummings, chairman of the Democratic national committee, called by the house subcommittee investigating aircraft expenditures to testify under oath tonight why he had permitted the publicity bureau of his organization to brand a proposed committee trip to the Pacific coast as a "junket." took full responsibility for the statement and declared it was not a circumstance to what would come later.

From the moment he entered the committee room and introduced himself to the members demanding the examination until he went away Mr. Cummings continually was smiling while Chairman Frear pounded the table with great heat and stopped the proceedings to have certain replies stricken from the record. With mock courtesy Mr. Cummings turning to the chairman and addressing him as "My good fellow" said that he knew before he arrived that he would be unable to satisfy the Republicans. There were one or two sharp retorts from Chairman Frear, to one of which the witness lighting one cigar from another and still smiling, declared "My, wasn't that a delicate thrust."

At the outset Mr. Cummings told the committee that while he had not read the particular article to which the Republicans took offense he

quite approved it, except that it was not vigorous enough. It was during this questioning that Chairman Frear told the stenographer not to permit certain statements to remain in the record to which the witness replied that in a court of justice he would have more rights. What the chairman wanted to know, specially was the basis for the charge that the subcommittee was a "smelling committee" and that it soon was to start on a "junket." Finally, after a sharp wrangle, Mr. Cummings said that as he understood it, the committee contemplated a Western trip to look into spruce conditions relating to aviation when all of this had been gone over by Charles E. Hughes.

**PAY OF ENLISTED MEN**

**TO REMAIN UNCHANGED**

According to information received from the adjutant general of the war department the pay of enlisted men will not revert after present emergency to pre-war scale. The following telegram has been received at the southeastern department addressed to the commanding general:

"Newspaper reports that pay of enlisted men will revert after present emergency to pre-war scale are incorrect. Appropriation bill for fiscal year 1920, provided that provisions of act approved May 18, 1917, in so far as it increases the pay of enlisted men of the army, are continued in force and in effect from and after the date of approval of this appropriation act of 1920. You will give wide publicity to these facts."

**Boll Weevil Taking Heavy Toll.**

Se heaviest "first crop" infestation of cotton boll weevils on record is now genera in all the counties of Mississippi south of Tupelo and

Clarksdale, according to the field agent of the United States Department of Agriculture. The weather favors still further propagation. Many farmers, because of the production of the past two years, believed that they could henceforth grow cotton without fear of this pest. The department has of course, continued to advocate the growing of cotton under precautions against weevils and is now pushing such control measures as are available.

**THAT REPTILE MYTH.**

(By John Breck in The State.)

One of the indubitable signs of spring is the dear, sentimental tale of the mother snake whose young take refuge in her capacious maw when danger lowers. But the advantage of living a long time in one place is in that eventually you may have picked a heated argument with nearly all the likely observers. I have antagonized most of the golfers by setting my conviction that the vigorous secretions of a snake's digestive apparatus would make it an unhealthy nursery against what they know really did happen in the swale down by the fifth hole.

At last I received a summons. They "had the goods on me." They had killed a copperhead in the very act.

Well, it really looked as though they had. There was the snake, a brown, splotted one, with the half-engulfed youngster pinned "in situ" by a well aimed cleek. And she certainly was a reptilian nursery. Circumstantial evidence was fairly complete on the side of the prosecution.

Then the defense got to work. The snake was colored all right, dark saddle bands on a light ground, but they were not the hour glass shape of the copperhead. Neither were they sufficiently distinct. Its jaw bulged

venomously from its neck yet its head had not the triangular look of the elegant Ancistrodon. It was too long snouted and irregular. Also, the venomous creature is seldom blessed with many offsprings, five or six at the most, while this matron was densely populated. We counted 18 snakelings and it was about as accurate as inventorying worms in a bait can.

They showed singularly feeble signs of life for young things which had made their formal debut into the world, and they were not in the proper location for creatures which had been swallowed. That, however, was no argument the golfers would

consider. They were not particular about the inner geography of the creature. A snake in the mouth was all the evidence they craved.

At last I ventured to point out that the aforesaid snake was not only larger than the ones inside—it was a different kind. It was as different from the young as from its theoretic mother. It was one familiar serpent, which nobody could possibly mistake—a gartersnake. And the mother was merely a large brown watersnake, which, after the fashion of her kind carries her eggs until they hatch, instead of laying them as land snakes do. She had been interrupted in a cannibal meal.

**Pure Ice Cream---**

*Manufactured Under Sanitary Conditions*

- SOFT DRINKS
- CIGARETTES
- TOBACCOS
- CANDIES
- FRUITS
- CIGARS

**Soft Drinks and Confections....**

We are prepared to serve you in the most courteous manner and solicit your patronage.

**Abbeville Candy Kitchen**



**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR AD. OF**

**HARRISON & HILL**

**NEW CAR**

**Hold Your Orders Until These Cars Arrive**