

# The Laurens Advertiser.

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## LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPANY GRANTED INCREASE IN RATES

Increase not as Large as Company Requested in Its Petition to the Railroad Commission. Rate Goes Into Effect July 1st.

By an order issued by the state railroad commission June 3rd and delivered to the local company last week, the Laurens Telephone Company is granted an increase in rates of approximately 20 per cent. The commission did not grant the full increase asked by the company, which amounted to about 40 per cent, giving as its opinion that the company could operate with a reasonable profit under the schedule granted.

The full order of the commission, which gives all details of the matter, is as follows:

Order No. 231

June 3rd, 1921.

Laurens Telephone Company,  
Laurens, S. C.

On October 11th, 1920, the Laurens Telephone Company, through Mr. W. R. Richey, President, filed petition with the Railroad Commission of South Carolina asking for an increase of rates. In the absence of a petition signed by a majority of the subscribers of said telephone company the Commission ordered a hearing to be held in the city of Laurens, S. C., on November 23rd, 1920, notice of this hearing being duly advertised according to the law which requires publication of special notice for four consecutive weeks. The hearing was held at the time and place specified. The Laurens Telephone Company was represented by Mr. Richey, while a goodly number of subscribers of said company were present at this meeting.

The increase was opposed at that time by said subscribers, their contention being based mainly upon the proposition that first of all your financial statement did not show at the time of the hearing an actual loss between revenue obtained from service and actual operating expenses, but presumed that a loss would exist inside of the next six months. Another contention advanced by some of the subscribers present was that this was not an opportune time to increase rates, and especially such an increase as was requested in petition of said telephone company, which meant a forty per cent. increase over the rates then and now in existence.

The Commission has gone into this matter thoroughly for almost eight months, and has weighed the question from every angle. It has required additional information from the Laurens Telephone Company, which has been submitted and shows that the amount paid for actual operating expenses exceeds the revenue received by said company from the actual operation of the exchange. This has developed within the past three or four months and at present an actual deficit between the two amounts—that is to say a deficit exists between the amount paid out and the amount received—and today the exchange is being operated at an actual loss.

Where the records show that a utility is undertaking to operate with a greater amount paid out to maintain the service than the amount received for such service, it can be readily realized that the service, under these conditions, cannot long continue, and where such a state of affairs exists it does not become necessary to take into consideration the amount of investment, or what is often referred to as "watered stock," or other similar consideration. The mere fact that there is not sufficient revenue being taken

### Winthrop College SCHOLARSHIP AND ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

The examination for the award of vacant Scholarships in Winthrop College and for admission of new students will be held at the County Court House on Friday, July 1, at 9 a. m. Applicants must not be less than sixteen years of age. When Scholarships are vacant after July 1 they will be awarded to those making the highest average at this examination, provided they meet the conditions governing the award. Applicants for Scholarships should write to President Johnson before the examination for Scholarship examination blanks.

Scholarships are worth \$100 and free tuition. The next session will open September 1th, 1921. For further information and catalogue, address Pres. D. B. Johnson, Rock Hill, S. C. 47-44

## Hupmobile

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Ellis Motor Co.  
DISTRIBUTORS  
Clinton, S. C.

in by the company to meet its actual operating expenses would have a tendency to eliminate matters such as above referred to. The Commission wishes it understood that it is not a pleasure to increase rates, but it is the duty of the Commission to demand of all corporations under its jurisdiction that they render efficient service to their patrons, and in turn, under the laws of the State, it becomes the duty of the Commission to see that properties of this kind shall not be confiscated to furnish service as above outlined. Therefore, unfortunately, it becomes the Commission's duty to put into effect a scale of rates that will be just, equitable and reasonable to all parties at interest.

The Commission has given due consideration to the financial conditions existing and the fact that a great many business concerns are operating at much less profit than has been the custom for the past several years, but telephone service has reached the stage where it is an absolute necessity, and in order that the people may have access to this convenience, it becomes especially necessary that the property of the telephone company be maintained in an adequate condition to render the service demanded of it.

However, the Commission has decided that it cannot at this time grant the amount of increase requested in the petition of the Laurens Telephone Company, notwithstanding the fact that such increase may be necessary to yield the usual revenue on the investment maintained in this specific instance, but we have taken into consideration that cost of material is gradually being reduced, and the Commission is of the opinion at this time that the increases granted will in the near future take care of the situation in such a way as not to impair the service of the telephone exchange and yield a slight revenue on the investment.

Therefore, the Commission issues the following order:

It is ordered, that on and after July 1st, 1921, the legal rates for telephone service rendered by the Laurens Telephone Company within the city limits of Laurens, S. C. shall be as follows:

Special line business telephones \$3.10 per month.

Duplex line business telephone \$2.75 per month.

Special line residence telephone \$2.40 per month.

Duplex line residence telephone \$1.80 per month.

Four party residence telephone \$1.60 per month.

Extension telephone \$1.20 per month.

For rural lines constructed, equipped and maintained to the city limits of Laurens by others than Laurens Telephone Company, with six telephones or less number per line, \$3.00 per month per drop on switchboard. This means that when there are six telephones or less on lines of this kind the charge shall be \$3.00 per month for six telephones or less, with a charge of \$50 per month for each additional telephone when there are more than six telephones on the line.

This order shall remain in effect until the further orders of this Commission.

In addition to the facts above set out, this Commission has on file an ordinance passed by the City Council of Laurens, of date June 28th, 1920, which prescribes a rate as follows:

Special line business telephone \$2.50 per month.

Duplex line business telephone \$2.00 per month.

Special line residence telephone \$2.50 per month.

Duplex line residence telephone \$2.00 per month.

Under existing conditions the Commission does not feel that these rates should be granted at present. Although giving due cognizance to the action of the City Council of Laurens, S. C., the Commission is of the opinion at present that the Laurens Telephone Company can meet operating expenses of its exchange and have a surplus from such operation to care for deterioration, maintenance, etc.

In reaching its conclusion as to rates set out in above order the Commission has eliminated certain items presented to it as necessary in the operation of this exchange which in its opinion the company can operate without. The Commission is of the opinion that while the rates herein rendered as legal rates for service rendered by Laurens Telephone Company may not be as high as the rates charged by many similar exchanges, they will yield a revenue as above outlined. If the Commission is in error as to this then the matter can easily be re-opened and such action taken as may be necessary in the premises.

FRANK W. SHEALY,  
Chairman.

H. H. ARNOLD,  
Commissioner.

J. D. DARBY,  
Secretary.

IT WILL PAY YOU TO COME  
MANY MILES TO  
J. C. BURNS & CO.  
BIG RED HOT SALE AT BOTH  
STORES IN LAURENS.

## PLANS TO CARRY SURPLUS COTTON

Secretary of Commerce Gives Views to Senate Committee Outlining Position of Administration as to Economic Distress Being Felt by Farmers.

Washington, June 25.—Efforts are being made by the administration to mobilize banking credits for carrying over surpluses of the country's cotton and sugar, Secretary Hoover disclosed today before a senate committee. The object is "to prevent a forced" liquidation of these commodities" he said, and the plan under consideration is identical with that carried out in the cattle industry.

The commerce secretary was called to give his views on the Norris bill to create a \$100,000,000 government farm export corporation. He told the committee he did not favor the measure.

"I don't want to appear to depreciate any proposal intended to assist the agricultural industry," Mr. Hoover said, "because the situation today which has reduced the purchasing power of the American farmer 67 per cent has put him to the most serious duress agriculture has ever had to face. The situation is the most acute and dangerous in the country at the present moment. I cannot feel that the extension of further credit facilities for the supply of food products to Europe would give any adequate remedy."

While sixty million Europeans still are "under food restraint, rationing or similar systems," Mr. Hoover said, "Poland, Austria and in a minor degree Czechoslovakia, were the only countries where a diminished food supply might result from failure of credits. European harvests, generally good, he said, might be sufficient to meet their needs, but that in any case thirty million bushels of wheat was all that would be involved. He added that Europe "found the money somehow to take a billion dollars in food from the United States in the last eleven and a half months."

"As to cotton, however, the problem of disposing of our surplus is much more serious," Mr. Hoover continued, "because experience has demonstrated that the governments and the peoples will secure their food, but that they will cut in textiles."

"There is a marked tendency in Europe to live on their own food resources and make their harvests stretch as far as possible through the year which indicates that the American farmer must carry hereafter his crops for a longer period through the year because the European demand will only come at later months."

"We are trying to set up such machinery as will prevent forced liquidation in cotton and sugar and negotiation through the banks of the country. If this cannot be done through the mobilization of private banking capital in such a way as to avoid putting the burden on the government, why then we may have to call on the government."

"Happily there is a short crop of cotton this year and there have also been artificial conditions, which have depressed the market, such as the long strike in England and the reparations discussion with Germany, which worked to cut our cotton exports, yet the shelves of the world are growing bare of textiles and we can hope to carry over the surplus until it can be sold at satisfactory levels. A similar situation exists as to grain, but it is not so marked."

### DEFER ELECTION OF ERSKINE HEAD

Postponed Until Meeting of Trustees in Gastonia, N. C. On August 3rd.

Chester, June 27.—The election of a president of Erskine College to succeed Dr. J. S. Moffatt, resigned, was deferred until August 3rd, by the trustees in session here tonight. The next meeting will be held at Gastonia, N. C. The reason assigned for the postponement was in order to have the western members of the board present. Four names were presented by the executive committee. Rev. R. C. Grier, of Columbia; Dr. Ernest Neal Orr, of Charlotte, N. C.; and Rev. J. W. Carson and Prof. O. B. Cannon, of Newberry. A committee was appointed to wait under Dr. Moffatt, and urge him to accept the office of president emeritus.



## 3-DAY CLEARANCE SALE ON DRESSES and SKIRTS

Great bargains will be offered in our Dress and Skirt Department Thursday, Friday and Saturday. All dresses will be reduced to 1-2 price and many far below. We must close them out regardless of cost.

Nine of the biggest bargains ever offered in Dresses; only one of a kind, and as they are sold they will be marked off the list.

- 516. Brown Taffeta, size 18; price \$60.00, Sale Price \$19.75
- 751. Brown Crepe de Chine, size 36; price \$75, Sale Price 25.00
- 729. Grey Crepe de Chine, size 40, price \$65, Sale Price 22.50
- 230. Blue Taffeta, size 36; price \$37.50, Sale Price 12.50
- 263. Blue Taffeta, size 18; price \$37.50, Sale Price 15.00
- 520. Blue Taffeta, size 36; price \$45.00, Sale Price 17.50
- M. Navy Taffeta, size 40; price \$27.50, Sale Price 12.00
- 4821. Grey Taffeta, size 38; price \$27.00, Sale Price 11.75
- 876. Navy Messaline, size 14; price \$45.00, Sale Price 15.00

LOT NO. 1  
50 House Dresses in gingham and percale; worth up to \$6.50, Special Sale Price \$1.75

LOT NO. 2  
12 Taffeta, Messaline and Poplin Dresses; values up to \$19.75, Special Sale Price \$5.00

SKIRTS  
Hanson Skirts of Baronett, Satin, Crepe and Georgette Crepe; regular price \$35.00, Special Sale Price \$15.00

All Other Skirts 1-2 Price

MUSLIN UNDERWEAR  
All Muslin Underwear reduced to 1-2 Price.

All Alterations Charged For---No Goods on Approval  
**DAVIS-ROPER CO.**  
Outfitters for the Whole Family  
Laurens South Carolina