

The Times has been designated as an official paper of the State.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH.

The question is now brought prominently before Congress and the public.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

The House of Representatives has received the report of the committee on the postal telegraph system.

REASONS ASSIGNED FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE.

The reasons assigned for the proposed change are that the cost of telegraphing is unreasonably burdensome and of the prohibitory, that its execution is inefficient and insecure, and that the concentration of power in the hands of private corporations, unrestrained by public control, has become so great as to be inconsistent with the prerogatives of the General Government, and the vital interests of the people.

THE EXTENT OF THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY.

The extent of the social affairs of the country has become more dependent upon the telegraph than the mail, and the general laws of equality of privileges which have been wisely extended over the latter should at the earliest possible date be extended over the former.

THE SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN PROPOSED.

The Government system, which requires the purchase, construction, and monopoly of the lines by the Executive, is the other the postal system, which is proposed as a union of private ownership, management, and risk, with governmental supervision, as that presented in the present administration of the Post Office Department and of National Banks.

THE OBJECTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT PLAN.

The estimated cost of the lines at front would be fifty millions of dollars; the power would be under the Executive, and the increased patronage which would follow the acquisition of the property.

THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEES.

The committee on the telegraph system recommends that the telegraph lines shall at its own risk furnish the postal service, and that the efficient execution of the telegraph service of the country; that the rate for private messages and for reports shall be uniform for all circuits and equal distances; that these rates may be regulated by Congress within the rate of postage as regulated; that this telegraphic service shall be made a component part of the postal service; the operators, although employed and paid by the company, to be governed by the same general rules and regulations which govern employees of the Post Office Department; and that the Postmaster General shall have same control over the administration of the telegraph business that he now has over the postal.

THE CHIEF ADVANTAGES ARE THAT IT WILL EXTEND THE USE OF THE TELEGRAPH TO EVERY TOWN OF 500 TO 800 INHABITANTS; THAT IT DOES NOT INVOLVE THE GOVERNMENT IN EXPENDITURE OF MONEY IN THE PURCHASE OF TELEGRAPH LINES; THAT IT AUTHORIZES NO MONOPOLY; THAT IT WILL REDUCE THE PRICE OF MESSAGES AND SPECIAL PRESS REPORTS AT LEAST 50 PER CENT.; INCREASE THE LENGTH OF MESSAGE 80 PER CENT.; AND FACILITATE IN EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY THE TRANSMISSION OF A UNIFORM RATE; THAT IT WILL SECURE FOR THE PEOPLE THE EQUALITY OF PRIVILEGES THAT ARE NOW ENJOYED BY THE RICH.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 9.

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