

UNIFORM TELEPHONE

RATES ORDERED

An order establishing uniform rates for service connections of telephones in the state was issued last week by the state railroad commission, effective July 1. Rates for installation of new phones for residences, business houses, and switchboards are also established.

The rates range from \$1 to \$3 for service connection, telephone companies of the state being classed into four groups, on a technical basis. Later the commission will designate cities in the various groups.

The order confirms charges now in effect on the Northwestern Bell company system, North Dakota Independent, Dakota Central and a few other companies, and is extended to all exchanges. Rates now obtaining on the above named companies are lower than the Burleson rates put in effect during the period of government control.

The commission has announced it proposes to establish uniform meter charges of electric utility companies in the state, sets out a schedule of rates and will hold a hearing July 1. The commission proposes that each consumer shall contract for electric service on a year's basis and that an additional charge of \$2 shall be made if the service is used less than one year. It would make the meter