

Public Document No. 29

Twenty-Seventh and Twenty-Eighth
Annual Report

OF THE

North Dakota Board of
Railroad Commissioners



TO THE

GOVERNOR

For the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1918.

BISMARCK TRIBUNE COMPANY
STATE PRINTERS AND BINDERS
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA



BOARD OF RAILROAD COMMISSIONERS.
CASH COLLECTIONS.

Mar. 11, 1920—W. G. Bicklehaupt.....	6.00
Mar. 11, 1920—H. A. Brown, Cooperstown.....	12.50
Mar. 17, 1920—E. E. Huber, Plaza.....	3.75
Mar. 17, 1920—M. D. Eustis, Washburn.....	.75

TELEPHONE UTILITIES

New Rockford Telephone Co.New Rockford	26,034.00
Griggs County Telephone Co.Cooperstown	42,402.00
Griggs County Telephone Co.Binford	13,870.00
McHenry County Telephone Co.McHenry	20,565.00
McHenry County Telephone Co.Grace City	3,619.00
The Central N. D. Co-op. Tel. Co.Dazey	23,157.00
The Central N. D. Co-op. Tel. Co.Hannaford	26,443.00
The Central N. D. Co-op. Tel. Co.Luverne	13,341.00
The Central N. D. Co-op. Tel. Co.Sutton	11,095.00
The Mohall Telephone Co.Mohall	32,356.00
Northwestern Telephone Ex. Co.....Jamestown	147,818.00
The N. D. Independent Telephone Co...Valley City	162,905.00
The N. D. Independent Telephone Co...Leal	8,913.00
The N. D. Independent Telephone Co...Rogers	15,772.00
The N. D. Independent Telephone Co...Bismarck	150,908.00
The Lidgerwood Rural Telephone Co...Lidgerwood	63,066.00
The Lidgerwood Rural Telephone Co...Geneseo	2,715.00
The Lidgerwood Rural Telephone Co...Veblen	7,496.00
The People's Telephone Co.Taylor	21,061.00
The People's Telephone Co.Richardton	11,306.00
Northern States Power Co.Minot	173,945.00
Dakota Central Telephone Co.Linton	12,290.00

Case No. 1533.

McHenry Telephone Company, Cooperstown, N. D. Application for increased telephone rates at McHenry and Grace City filed January 5, 1920. Heard pursuant to legal notice, February 21, 1920, at Bismarck, N. D. Tentative valuation of \$13,000 used for temporary rate-making purposes. Operating revenues and expenses for a ten-month period, in 1919, shows a deficit of \$263.55, without providing for depreciation and earning on investment. Operators' salaries shown to have been increased \$32.50 per month, February 1, 1920, also increased salary of lineman, increased cost of materials and supplies. The Commission ordered temporary rates, effective April 1, 1920, individual line business \$2.50 per month, net;

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individual line residence \$1.75 per month, net; rural multi-party service \$1.75 per month, net; and provided gross rates 25c higher with a like discount if paid before the 15th of current month. Order No. 119. Case held open pending evaluation of the property by the Commission.

Case No. 1543.

Griggs County Telephone Company, Cooperstown, N. D. Application for increased rates filed January 21, 1920. Heard at Bismarck, March 11, 1920.

This company operates exchanges at Cooperstown and Binford, N. D., together with farm lines tributary thereto. Their property was invoiced and appraised prior to date of application, but no attempt was made to prove in this inventory at the hearing. The gross revenues for 1919 were shown to be \$12,375.89, and the gross operating revenues for same period \$11,115.23, leaving \$1,260.66 for depreciation and return on investment. Increased pay to operators, lineman, and manager made in the early part of 1920 indicated an estimated increase in operating expenses of \$1,540 for the current year, and it was further indicated that other increases would be necessary. Temporary rates were therefore approved by Order No. 123, effective April 1, 1920, making the individual business rate at Cooperstown, \$2.75 per month, net, individual residence rate, \$1.75 per month, net, and the rural multi-party service rate, \$1.75 per month, net. At Binford, the individual business line rate was established at \$2.50 per month, net, residence service, \$1.75 per month net, rural service, \$1.75 per month net. Gross rates 25 cents higher than the above rates were provided for billing purposes, and 25 cents discount allowed on all bills paid on or before the 15th day of the month.

The company was required to continue a good grade of service and to furnish the Commission with a monthly report on or before the 20th of the month showing in detail the operating expenses and revenues. The temporary rates were to remain in effect until modified or superseded by further order of the Commission pending evaluation.

Subscribers and citizens at Binford and Jessie, N. D., protested vigorously the increases granted, complaining that the service was inadequate, and a further hearing of the case was held at Binford, March 11, 1920, as a result of which a supplemental order was issued under date of May 19, 1920, giving the subscribers and citizens of that town full opportunity to be heard; and the Commission learned that the dissatisfaction in those communities was largely due to the fact that these communities were not enjoying as broad and useful service in the rural districts, due to the refusal by many farmers to patronize this company. Such lack of patronage grew out of a series of practises over a period of years, causing a

feeling that applicant had pressed certain changes in rates, and required large bonuses to new subscribers, proving prejudicial to the community's interests. The Commission met with the directors of said company, following the Binford hearing, who passed resolutions confirming their offers to sell the farm line property tributary to Binford and Jessie. The directors further considered favorably the matter of modifying the existing objectionable bonus rule, and in lieu thereof agreed to establish regular tariff rates covering farm installations to buildings more than one-half mile to company's lines.

Since this hearing the Bryan Mutual Telephone Company has been incorporated at Jessie, N. D., and certain farm lines have been purchased from applicant company by the new company, and a similar arrangement has taken place at Binford, and the Commission is of the opinion that the friction in those communities has thus been eliminated. At the date of this report, the Commission is making a complete evaluation of all property owned by applicant company used and useful in the furnishing of telephone service, at the conclusion of which the matter of telephone rates will be again taken up for a more satisfactory adjustment, giving consideration to the valuation thus determined.

More research needed here. Who was Bryan that started the telephone company in Jessie? Who started it in Binford? How long did these companies last?

Did the Washburn Telephone Company start from disgruntled subscribers?

I-359 Griggs County Telephone Co., Cooperstown, N. D. Application for change in rates filed under Sec. 14, Chap. 192, Session Laws of 1919, entered Feb. 16, 1921. March 17, 1921, suspended for 120 days. Hearing set for June 23, 1921. Decided July 29, 1921, and order entered establishing rates.

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Claim No.	Claimant	Address	Amount paid
53	Geo. N. Disseth	Barton, N. D.	4.20
54	F. H. Nye	Cooperstown, N. D.	52.74
55	David Cannell	Glen Ullin, N. D.	.67

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I-662 Griggs Co. Telephone Co., Cooperstown, and Washburn Township Mutual Telephone Co., Cooperstown. Joint application for transfer of certain farm lines, entered April 18, 1922. Certificates of Convenience & Necessity Nos. 98 and 99 entered May 1, 1922.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=4a4pAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA1-PA64&lpg=RA1->

[PA64&dq=western+electric+company+jamestown,+nd+1920s&source=bl&ots=JJqdiBUMF5&sig=1M-eYUW_1F12vjBT-ZkBqnVs3Y0&hl=en&sa=X&ei=WmVYUfavMKGGyAGT6YEI&ved=0CDsQ6AEwAA#v=snippet&q=cooperstown&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?pg=PA64&dq=western+electric+company+jamestown,+nd+1920s&source=bl&ots=JJqdiBUMF5&sig=1M-eYUW_1F12vjBT-ZkBqnVs3Y0&hl=en&sa=X&ei=WmVYUfavMKGGyAGT6YEI&ved=0CDsQ6AEwAA#v=snippet&q=cooperstown&f=false)

Google Books address for below:

What year did company start? Does the company have any early records on number of subscribers or rates?