

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

No. 292.

BELGIUM.

(Translation.)

The following papers selected from those sent from the Department of Telegraph Management of Belgium have been translated for the information of the committee; the originals are on file in the committee room and may be referred to at any time.

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS,
TELEGRAPH MANAGEMENT, TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT,
BRUSSELS, September 23, 1905.

To the Postmaster General and Chairman
of the Select Committee on Telephone Systems,
Ottawa, Canada.

SIR,—In answer to your letter of May 1, 1905, I have the honour to send you the information which you have kindly requested from me, regarding the organization and operation of the telephone service in Belgium. I have described, in answer to question 21, the measures which have been adopted by the Belgium government for the furthering of the telephone service in the rural districts of the country.

I have also the requests for information which you have addressed to the managers of the telephone systems at Antwerp and Liege. These requests appear to constitute a repetition, for the most part, of the interrogatories you have sent to the Central Telegraph Management; in order, therefore, to avoid repetition, I have only replied to those questions which do not appear on the list which you have sent to me directly.

With assurance of my highest esteem,

I am,

F. DELARGE (*General Director.*)

No. 292a.

(Translation.)

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

The right to operate telephone systems, organized, for the most part, in the larger Belgian cities, was originally conceded to companies, or to private individuals. Since 1886 the government itself has constructed and operates the telephone systems in the smaller cities. In 1893 the government began to repurchase successively the rights which had been conceded. The public telephone service is therefore now operated exclusively by the government. From the very beginning the Telegraph Management has retained the right of operating the long distance lines, both within the country and also in service with foreign countries.

The length of the telephone wires used for internal interurban telephony and for international telephony, is 6,077 miles. The length of the telegraph wires used for telephone service, and which serve for internal interurban telephony, and also for international telephony, is 3,922 miles.

The length of the telephone wires which are used exclusively for international telephony, is 2,477 miles.

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The cost of constructing long-distance lines varies with the diameter of the conductor (wire). We give here the approximate cost for the first construction of a mile of each size of bronze wire:—

Size of wire.		Cost per mile.	
mm.	S.W.G.	francs.	\$
2	14	212.87	41.08
2.4	13	255.57	49.32
2.5	12½	267.56	51.64
3	10½	334.51	64.56
3.25	10	372.52	71.90
4	8	504.90	97.45
5	5½	723.32	139.70
5.5	4½	852.45	164.52

There are on an average 13 or 14 poles to each kilometre, or 21 or 22 poles per mile.

We send with this a copy of the 'Special Regulations relating to the Telephone Service,' and also the pamphlet containing the additions to these 'Regulations.' The information regarding the various telephone rates will be found on pages 80 to 94, of Document 2. (See pages 581-588.)

For the telephone rates between Belgium and France, Belgium and England, and Belgium and Germany, see Documents 3, 4 and 5. See pages 588-590.)

Our telephone lines are partly underground and partly overhead. In the case of overhead lines, subscribers' wires terminate at the central telephone station, on an (iron) distributing standard or tower. Between the central station and the residences of the subscribers they are carried on iron or wooden poles, according to circumstances. In the case of the mixed lines, that are constructed in the principal cities, the wires are divided into zones, having a radius of about 200 m. (656 feet), or 250 m. (820 ft.). Each of these is served by an underground conduit, the cables in which terminate on a distributing pole or tower the size of which depends on the number of subscribers' circuits. From that point the wires are carried overhead to the residences of the subscribers. The distributing points are formed of iron poles, fixed in the streets or public squares of 4-sided towers placed by way of preference on public buildings, for the sake of permanence.

The underground ducts are formed of pipes made of glazed earthenware laid in cement, and surrounded by concrete to thickness of 10 centimetres.

In each pipe is placed a lead-sheathed, paper insulated cable, having a maximum capacity of 350 pairs of wire conductors. Subscribers who reside beyond the urban divisional zones, are, as a rule, connected with the terminal distributing pole or tower within the city limits, by overhead wires. When a sufficient number of these wires have to be carried along the same route, they form what we term 'suburban routes.' They are carried on supports, or on poles, as in the case of overhead lines. Sometimes these lines are carried in lead-sheathed paper insulated cables with an armature of metal, placed in a wooden duct and filled with pitch. The overhead wires connecting the subscribers are, as a general rule, made of phosphor bronze, with a diameter of 1.4 mm. (No. 17, S.W.G.), and having a conductivity equal to 30 per cent of pure copper. The wires of the insulated paper cables are of tinned copper, having a diameter of 0.8 mm. (No. 21, S.W.G.), and a conductivity of 98 per cent. The management has been trying a bi-metallic wire of 50 and 55 per cent copper. Subscribers circuits are exclusively metallic. Although there are three telephone systems which still have single grounded wire circuits, they are being gradually converted into metallic circuits.

According to the distance, bronze wire of 2 mm. (No. 14, S.W.G.) and 2.4 mm. (No. 13, S.W.G.) with a conductivity of pure copper of 80 per cent, and of 2.5 mm. (No. 12½, S.W.G.), and 3 mm. (No. 10½, S.W.G.), of 90 per cent, are used for internal interurban lines, and for international lines, wires 2 mm., 3 mm., 3.25 mm. (No.

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10, S.W.G.), 4 mm. (No. 8, S.W.G.), 5 mm. (No. 5½, S.W.G.), and 5·5 mm. (No. 4½, S.W.G.), of 90 or 95 per cent.

Initial cost of establishing the long-distance lines to December 31, 1903:—

Lines	2,752,957 f. 89 cent. (\$531,320.87)
Apparatus	334,928 f. 64 cent. (64,641.23)

Total 3,087,886 f. 53 cent. (\$595,962.10)

Cost of maintaining the lines during 1903:—

Lines	113,796 f. 38 cent. (\$21,962.70)
Apparatus	12,004 f. 06. cent. (\$2,316.78)
Share of indemnities paid for way-leave privileges on long- distance lines.. . . .	1,510 f. (\$291.43)

Total 127,310 f. 44 cent. (\$24,570.91)

The interest paid by the Belgium government amounts to 3 per cent on the capital employed.

The cost of the lines is paid off in 15 years, and the cost of the apparatus in 10 years.

The annual expenditures, which have not already been referred to, amounted, during 1903, to 283,942 fr. 23 centimes (\$54,800.85).

Charges for conversations from public call stations, are paid at the time in cash. Subscribers who use the internal interurban telephone service and the international telephone service, or who use the telephone for transmitting telegrams to the telegraph office, and subscribers who have telephone messages delivered, have to deposit in advance, an amount equal to a sum slightly in excess of the estimated total charges that would be due in respect of such services during a period of one month. The central stations accountable enter in a register all the internal interurban and international communications, also all the telephonic messages sent from subscribers connected with the said central stations, and, when necessary, in addition thereto, the communications sent to auxiliary stations which are not responsible for noting down the same.

The charges due for each message, or conversation, is inserted in the said register, and is entered daily in the current account of each of the subscribers. A similar course is followed regarding the interchange of telegrams over the 'phone lines.

The charges entered in the current accounts, are collected monthly. (See also Articles 45 to 52 of the 'Special Regulations relating to the Telephone Service,' document 1. Not printed.)

The Van Rysselberghe system of simultaneous telephony and telegraphy is used. However, the majority of the circuits are composed of double wires (metallic circuits) as specially used in telephony.

The total population of Belgium, on December 31, 1904, was 7,074,910.

On December 31, 1904, the number of subscriber's stations in use was:—

Principal stations.. . . .	20,875
Supplementary stations.. . . .	3,229

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The following are the number of subscribers in and populations of the chief cities and towns:—

	Principal Stations.	Supplementary Stations.	Population.
Brussels.....	6,304	1,301	655,000
Antwerp.....	3,521	632	412,000
Liège.....	2,226	321	317,000
Ghent.....	1,296	121	222,000
Verviers.....	1,075	114	89,000
Charleroi.....	730	170	165,000
Mons.....	545	55	61,000
Namur.....	485	32	53,000
Ostend.....	370	12	48,000
Tournai.....	303	53	51,000
Bruges.....	241	32	62,000

In Belgium, the telephone systems do not have any radius, that is to say, the number of 'communes' that are comprised in a local telephone system, have not been determined. As a rule subscribers are connected to the nearest central exchange. But the Belgian management has received a certain number of requests to have stations connected to a central exchange which is not the nearest one. The subscription rates are fixed according to the tariff specified for the system with which the subscriber is connected. When the subscriber's station is situated at a distance of more than 10 kilometres ($6\frac{1}{2}$ miles) in a straight line, from the central exchange, the management requires from the subscribers an agreement of a duration of more than one year, and extending up to five years.

It happens, sometimes, that the reverse condition occurs; that is to say, it is in the interest of the management itself to connect the subscriber to a central exchange at a greater distance. (See page 582, par. 3.) In this case, the subscriber is charged the rates specified for the distance to the nearest telephone system. In order to further the extension of the telephone service in localities of secondary rank, the management organizes auxiliary telephone systems, which are connected with the principal system, and form together in a single group, one working system. In the large cities, the central exchanges are placed in special locations. The central exchanges of the auxiliary systems are attached to the telegraph offices which are located either in the railway depôts, or in the post offices. Instead of fixing the rates for subscribers in an auxiliary system, according to the distance, in a straight line, between the subscriber's station and the principal central exchange, they are calculated according to the distance from the auxiliary central exchange, in order to reduce, as much as possible, the rates to be paid by the subscribers.

Each auxiliary system, as a general rule, is connected directly with the principal central exchange of the group by one or more bronze metallic circuits, of 2 mm. (No. 14 S.W.G.) having a conductivity of 50 or 80 per cent of pure copper. We call these interlocal or auxiliary circuits.

All the subscribers in one telephone group, whether connected to the principal central exchange, or to one of the auxiliary central exchanges, are allowed, without any extra charge, to converse with one another in the same locality or between different localities, either from the telephone stations rented to the subscribers, or by means of the public call stations belonging to the group.

The government, at its own expense, connects together the various central exchanges which belong to the same group.

The establishment of connections between subscribers' stations of the same exchange and also between the subscribers' stations of other exchanges but belonging to the same local group, is effected in the manner described in pages 8-10 of the 'Belgian Telephone Directory,' document No. 6. (See page 605.)

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New systems are as a general rule connected to the nearest existing telephone group. However, the management sometimes departs from this rule to assist interests of a commercial or industrial nature. Hitherto, the government has refused, as a general rule, to establish central telephone exchanges in localities of minor importance that are less than 7 kilometres (4½ miles) distant from some telephone centre. For the list of the various Belgian telephone groups, and their organization, see page 2 of document 6. (Page 580.)

The following are the numbers of subscribers in the smaller towns and villages:—

<i>Smaller towns.</i>		<i>Villages.</i>	
1. Huy..	135	1. Selzaete..	22
2. Dinant..	79	2. Sivry..	21
3. St. Ghislain..	72	3. Bertrix..	20
4. Ypres..	59	4. Ouffet..	19
5. Tirlemont..	52	5. Tintigny..	17
6. Gosselies..	44	6. Moll..	15
7. Vilvorde..	43	7. Fexhe..	15
8. St. Trond..	40		
9. Hasselt..	33		

The subscribers in many of the communes being connected with the afore-mentioned central exchanges, and the small communes having only a very small number of persons sufficiently interested to take telephones, it is not reasonable to make a comparison between the population of such places, and the number of telephones installed there.

The 127 auxiliary central exchanges which were in operation, on December 31, 1904, had a total number of 3, 242 subscriber's principal stations, and 337 subscriber's supplementary stations.

In urban telephone service (that is to say among subscribers that belong to the same group) the subscription rates are paid according to the 'flat rate' system; but the management is now considering the adoption of a 'message-rate' system.

All subscribers can converse with one another within the country. The greatest distance is about 400 kilometres (248½ miles).

The apparatus supplied to the subscribers in the Brussels, Ghent and Liege systems, equipped with 'common battery' are the Western Electric Company's with 'Solid Back' transmitters. In the other systems, the ordinary wall telephone supplied by the Bell Telephone Company of Antwerp (a branch of the Western Electric Company), or those of the Antwerp Telephone Company, are used. These telephones have granulated transmitters of the 'Delville' 'Grunenwald' 'Lorenz,' etc., types. A dry battery, or a 'Warnon' cell of the Leclanche type supplies the speaking current. In the case of stations, which converse over long distances, 2 cell-batteries are employed.

With one exception, those who first obtained the concessions, constructed the systems with single grounded circuits. The requirements of the long-distance service induced the holders of the said concessions to supply metallic circuits to those subscribers who made request for the same in consideration of extra payment.

The telephone systems constructed by the government are metallic circuit and have been so from the beginning. The telegraph management transforms successively the equipment in the systems that have been bought over, and uses the opportunity to metallic circuit the lines. There are now only a few systems in which the subscribers are connected by single grounded wires.

The interurban lines without exception are metallic circuits (bifilaires).

The overhead lines of the local systems on December 31, 1904, had a total length of 37,770 miles; and the underground lines a total length of 18,220 miles.

Until the last few years, the telephone system had only a very small number of underground lines. This condition of affairs has been gradually modified, by reason of the transformation of the systems. We are not able, at the present time, to give any information as to the cost of the underground lines.

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The total revenue, as per budget of 1903, was 4,635,188.55 Fr. (\$894,591.39).

The total expenditure, as per budget of 1903, was 3,837,662.03 Fr. (\$740,668.77).

The amount of profit, as per budget of 1903, was 797,526.52 Fr. (\$153,922.62).

As a general rule, the Belgian telephone systems are managed directly by officials who have the rank of engineer, or of chief engineer, chief of section, or chief of principal section, under the supervision of the higher authorities.

The salaries of these officials are as follows:—

Chief engineers—5,500 Fr. (\$1,061.50), 6,000 Fr. (\$1,158), 6,500 Fr. (\$1,254.50), and 7,000 Fr. (\$1,351).

Engineers—3,100 Fr. (\$598.30), 3,500 Fr. (\$675.50), 4,000 Fr. (\$772), 4,500 Fr. (\$868.50), 5,000 Fr. (\$965), and 5,500 Fr. (\$1,061.50).

Chiefs of principal sections—4,000 Fr. (\$772), 4,500 Fr. (\$868.50), 5,000 Fr. (\$965), 5,500 Fr. (\$1,061.50), and 6,000 Fr. (\$1,158).

Chiefs of sections—2,000 Fr. (\$386), 2,300 Fr. (\$443.90), 2,700 Fr. (\$521.10), 3,100 Fr. (\$598.30), 3,500 Fr. (\$675.50), and 4,000 Fr. (\$772).

Officials having the rank of chief of office (*chef de bureau*), with a salary of 5,500 Fr. (\$1,061.50), 5,000 Fr. (\$965), and 4,500 Fr. (\$868.50); and those having the rank of chief clerk (*commis en chef*) with a salary of 4,000 Fr. (\$772) and 2,500 Fr. (\$675.50), co-operate in the supervision of the subordinate employees; or they are employed as accountants in the telephone systems.

The telephone operators are mostly females. The female operators are taken on, first as 'provisional' learners, and do not attend to the service except in case of necessity, or to take the place of operators who are sick, on leave, &c. The fee allowed to these occasional operators, is 1 Franc 70 centimes (38 cents), or 85 centimes (17 cents) according as the day's sitting has been for 8 hours, or for 4 hours.

According as the daily terms of duty are regularly performed, 'provisional learners' are definitely appointed as 'learners' with a fixed annual salary of 600 Fr. (\$115.80), or 700 Fr. (\$135.10), according to the length of service rendered as 'provisional learners.' After a year's term of service at 700 Fr. (\$135.10), these learners are promoted to the rank of 'assistants.'

The female employees consist of operators (*commis d'ordre*), and supervisors (*surveillants*). The 'learners' and assistants are placed amongst the operators. The 'supervisors' are selected from among the 'operators.' The salaries are gradually increased by 200 Fr. (\$38.60) at a time—for 'supervisors' from 1,000 Fr. (\$193) to 2,600 Fr. (\$501.80); and for 'operators,' from 1,000 Fr. (\$193) to 2,200 Fr. (\$424.60). For 'assistants' by sums of 100 Fr. (\$19.30), from 800 Fr. (\$154.40) to 1,800 Fr. (\$347.40).

Female employees, with a good record of 30 years' service, and who have for six years been in receipt of the maximum salary of their class, may, on attaining the age of 50 years have their salaries increased to 2,800 Fr. (\$540.40), 2,400 Fr. (\$463.20), or 2,000 Fr. (\$386).

In addition to their fixed salary, the female operators receive, under the form of a bonus, half-yearly, an amount for regular attention to their duties, varying according to the carefulness and accuracy which each operator has manifested in the duties assigned to her. These bonuses may be reckoned approximately, at 75 Fr. (\$14.47) for the 'supervisors'; 50 Fr. (\$9.65) for the 'operators' and 'assistants,' and from 20 Fr. (\$3.86) to 25 Fr. (\$4.82) for the 'learners.'

A few males are also employed in office work, night service, and occasionally on the regular telephone service.

The salaries of such male employees are the same as those specified above, for female employees of the same class, except that the male employees may be promoted to the first class of their grade, with salaries of 2,400, 2,600, 2,800, and 3,000 francs (\$463.20, \$501.80, \$540.40, and \$579). The last mentioned salary is allowed to those clerks with a good record of 30 years' service, who have attained the age of 50 years, and who for six years have been receiving the maximum salary of 2,800 francs. The

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following salaries are paid to the male clerks. (Female clerks are ineligible to this class):—

Class I.—2,300, 2,700, and 3,100 francs (\$443.90, \$521.10, and \$598.30).

Class II.—1,700 and 2,000 francs (\$328.10 and \$386).

Class III.—1,200 and 1,400 francs (\$231.60 and \$270.20).

The work of installing, maintaining and repairing the lines and the instruments, is assigned to employees who are termed foremen of works, overseers, foremen of a gang, fitters (wiremen, or instrument men) and assistant fitters. These workmen are paid according to the actual amount of work done during each day. Only a small number of these workmen are regularly employed on Sundays and public holidays.

The scale of wages is fixed as follows:—

1. Foremen of works, 7 fr 6 cent. to 10 fr. 80 cent. (\$1.47 to \$2.08 daily).
2. Overseers, 5 fr. 70 cent. to 9 fr. 20 cent. (\$1.10 to \$1.77 daily).
3. Gang foremen, 4 fr. 20 cent. to 6 fr. 40 cent. (\$0.81 to \$1.23 daily).
4. Fitters, 3 fr. 60 cent. to 5 fr. 10 cent. (69 to 98 cents daily).
5. Assistant fitters, 2 fr. 60 cent. to 3 fr. 30 cent. (50 to 64 cents daily).

The Central Office plant and equipment in Brussels has cost 695,865 francs (\$134,301.94). This central exchange plant comprises the following:—

1. One intermediate switch table with three operating positions, of which two only are equipped.
2. Fourteen local switch board sections with three operating positions, each equipped for 6,300 subscribers and having a total capacity for 14,400 subscribers.
3. One local switch board section equipped as above for operating the 'auxiliary circuits,' and the circuits connected with the telegraph stations.
4. Six double interurban switch tables, and one recording switch table, equipped for two operating positions. Each of these can operate eight circuits.
5. Two supervisor's tables, placed in different positions for supervision: one for the local switch boards, and the other for the interurban switch boards.
6. One test desk (wire chief's) arranged for testing the lines for the purpose of ascertaining and locating defects, &c.
7. One main distribution board, constructed for 15,200 lines; equipped for 8,200 lines on the vertical side, and for 6,400 on the horizontal side.
8. One intermediate distribution board, with a capacity for 15,600 lines, and equipped for 6,480 lines.
9. One relay frame equipped with calling and cut-out relays for 7,200 lines, comprising 6,480 calling (lamp) relays, and 6,480 cut-out relays.
10. One repeating coil frame, with a capacity for 2,160 repeating coils, and equipped with 932.
11. Two generators, of 30 volts, 360 ampères, with rhéostat.
12. Two motors, of 16 horse power—110 volts.
13. Two dynamos—110 volts, for calling.
14. One storage battery, with 11 accumulator cells.

There is only one central office at Brussels, consequently we have no sub-exchange switch boards.

The cost of a subscriber's wall telephone is 53 francs, 30 centimes (\$10.29).

The cost of a subscriber's desk telephone is 55 fr. (\$10.61).

The distributing towers cost on an average about 7,500 fr. (\$1,447.50) each. The substructure work, approximately 50 cubic metres in extent, is paid for at the rate of 29 fr., 20 centimes (\$5.63) per cubic metre. The weight of the tower is estimated at 16,000 kilograms (35,280 lbs.), of which 12,500 kg. (27,653 lbs.) is of steel, at Fr. 0:36 per kg., and 3,500 kg. (7,718 lbs.) of cast-iron, at Fr. 0:365 per kg.

The barked pine poles not creosoted, are supplied at the following prices:—

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LENGTH.		Cost.	
Meters.	Feet.	Francs.	\$
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{3}{4}$	6.74	1.30
9	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	8.09	1.56
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	9.45	1.72
12	39 $\frac{3}{4}$	10.80	2.08
14	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	12.60	2.43
17	55 $\frac{3}{4}$	15.80	2.95
20	65 $\frac{3}{4}$	18.00	3.47

After the poles are received, they are creosoted.

The supports (chevalets) and iron cross arms are paid for at the rate of Fr. 0.25 (5 cents) per kilogram (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.).

We give below the price of insulators, steel bells and bolts:—

Large leading-in insulators. Fr. 0.314 (6 cents each)

Small leading-in insulators. Fr. 0.21 (4 cents each)

Ordinary insulators. Fr. 0.11 (2 cents each)

The bells of galvanized steel are used for protecting the ordinary insulators, cost fr. 0.275 each.

Iron bolts of from 0.20 m. to 0.65 m., cost from 0.113 frs. to 0.725 frs. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents to 14 cents).

The earthenware pipes employed in the construction of underground ducts, into which telephone cables are drawn, are 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length. They cost 7 cents per foot. The same pipes divided longitudinally into two equal parts, used for protecting steel armoured telephone cables, measure 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet each in length, and cost 10 cents per foot.

There has not been any competitive telephone service in Belgium since the service has been regulated by the State laws in 1883.

There are, in Belgium, 151 telephone systems, divided into seventeen local telephone systems. Each local system or group comprises a principal central exchange and several auxiliary central exchanges. Two of these local systems have a central exchange only, viz., Louvain and Malines.

The 'interlocal,' or 'auxiliary' circuits permit the establishment of communications between the different systems of the same group. The 'interlocal' circuits are connected at the principal central exchange of the group, with one or more operator's switch tables, which enables connections to be made with subscribers of the principal system when they are called up by one of the auxiliary systems, or connects the 'auxiliary' circuits, when communications are required between the auxiliary systems. Connections with the auxiliary systems requested by the subscribers of the large principal stations, are made by operators who attend exclusively to the 'auxiliary' circuits. The same procedure is followed in the smaller central exchanges, such as Charleroi, Ostend, Namur, &c., that is to say, in the central exchanges where the switch board equipment includes various operator's switch tables. In the smaller systems, the operator attends to 'subscribers' and the 'interlocal' circuits.

Special rates are charged for interurban connections, viz., those connections passing beyond the limits of a local telephone system. These connections are made by the principal central exchanges, in which interurban switch boards for connecting long-distance lines, with the local and the auxiliary switch boards are installed. From the operator's switch table a number of interurban circuits can be served, viz., eight at Brussels, eight at Ghent, &c. The number of long-distance circuits given to one operator varies according to the amount of traffic. The international connections, viz., those that are made between different countries, are handled in the same manner as interurban connections.

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The law of June 11, 1883, gives the government the right to carry wires of telephone systems over buildings and land without attachment or contact. The law of May, 20, 1898, gives the government the right to construct telephone lines on or under the public property of the state, the provinces, or the communes (municipalities.) When telephone lines have to be carried over the property of private individuals, the government must ask the permission of the proprietor or occupant. This permission is generally accorded on payment of an indemnity for each wire—in most cases the sum of 1 franc (19½ cents), by giving a telephone free of rental, by keeping the roofs of houses that are used in repair, or by maintaining any private electric arrangements which may be used by the individuals concerned, &c. For the use of property belonging to the public services of the state, the provinces, or the communes (municipalities), the telegraph management grants a reduction of 35 per cent on the telephone rates of subscribers connected with the said services.

SUPPLEMENTARY ANSWERS REGARDING THE LOCAL TELEPHONE SYSTEMS AT ANTWERP AND LIEGE.

As a general rule, the management strives to combine in one single room, the various switchboards of the central telephone exchanges, both for the local and long-distance service.

The number of direct lines having only one telephone (*i.e.*, non-party lines), corresponds with the number of the subscribers, exception being made in the case of the lines that are for the use of the management.

Our statistics do not distinguish between the supplementary telephone stations that are installed on the same premises as the subscriber's principal station, and those which are installed outside of the said premises. At Antwerp, there are 632 supplementary stations, and at Liege 321.

The lines and apparatus are set up by the management, and remain the property of the management. The subscribers do not pay anything towards the cost of installation. Nor is there any entrance fee.

In Belgium all the subscribers to the local service pay a flat rate for an unlimited service.

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No. 292b.

(Translation.)

SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE TELEPHONE SERVICE.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(Doc. I., p. 3.)

1. Telephone construction belongs exclusively to the telegraph management.

The establishment of a telephone central exchange in a locality depends upon the reception of a minimum number of requests for subscription, fixed by the management. Moreover, account has to be taken of the distance between this locality and the nearest central exchange.

The management designates the localities that may eventually become the seat of a telephone central exchange. No employee or agent of the service may, without being authorized by the management, agitate a movement in favour of the creation of a telephone system. As soon as it is known that a certain number of requests for subscription can be collected, so as to justify the establishment of a telephone exchange in a BELGIUM.

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certain locality, then notification of the same has to be given to the technical direction, in an official way. This notification has to specify:—

- (a) The name of the locality to be considered as the centre of the proposed telephone system.
- (b) The Christian names, surnames, professions and addresses of the persons who are to become subscribers in the said system.

This information has to be collected without and intervention, direct or indirect, of persons not connected with the telegraph management. These proposals are examined by the management; and the instructions requisite for the existing conditions, are given to the employees and agents concerned.

2. A telephone system comprises a central exchange, into which the wires are led that run from the subscriber's stations, and the public call stations. The central exchange has to make the connections between the various subscribers' stations.

Several telephone systems, established in different localities or centres, may be united to form local telephone groups. The central exchanges of these telephone systems, are connected by special lines.

3. The telephone service comprises two divisions, subject to different rules.

- (a) Local telephony, which comprises the service between the various subscribers' stations connected to the same local telephone system or group.
- (b) Long-distance telephony, which comprises another kind of service, both within the area of the country, and with foreign parts.

Long-distance telephony has, therefore, two separate divisions, viz., Interurban telephony, which comprises the service between the various local telephone systems or groups of the country; and international telephony.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS REGARDING CENTRAL EXCHANGES.

(Doc. I., p. 28.)

40. The central stations are divided into two classes:—

- (a) Principal central exchanges.
- (b) Auxiliary central exchanges.

These last are sub-divided into responsible auxiliary central exchanges and non-responsible auxiliary central exchanges.

2. Central exchanges which serve isolated telephone systems are classed in the first of these categories. In the telephone groups, the central exchanges into which the interurban (long-distance) lines are led in, are considered as principal central exchanges.

3. The other central exchanges of the group are considered as responsible or as non-responsible auxiliary central exchanges.

41. The central telephone exchanges are connected to the telegraph system by special lines, which are used:—

- (a) For the exchange of telegrams, within the limits of the conditions specified in the special instructions issued on this point.
- (b) For the transmission and receipt of telephone messages. See Articles 69 to 77.
- (c) For the service of the general public with the railway stations. See Supplement 21.

42. No subscriber can obtain a connection, for which a special charge has to be paid, such as long-distance connections, transmission of telegrams, telephone messages, &c., unless the said subscriber has made a deposit, in advance, in order to guarantee the payment of the charge. This deposit, however, is not required from the various government departments, nor from the authorities of the provinces and communes.

(2) As an exception to the above rule, a subscriber who has not paid the deposit may receive connection with a telegraph bureau, in order to ask or to give certain

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information from or to the same. In this case, the operator has to mention to the telegraph bureau that this deposit has not been paid, at the time when the connection is made.

(3) Connections requested by a telegraph bureau may always be made with the subscribers.

(4) The charges for connections that have been made, in cases where the aforesaid deposit has not been paid, or when the amount of the same is not sufficient, have to be paid by the agent or official who is at fault, if the person concerned refuses to pay the amount.

(5) This responsibility to pay the amount due may be transferred to the operator concerned, when a connection is made that is not covered by a deposit.

(6) Any request made for connections, which deviates from the ordinary rules, must be refused by the chief operator. (For example, it is not admissible that No. X. should ask to be called only at stated hours, or that his station shall only be connected with certain specified subscribers, or that he shall not be connected with any other subscriber unless some prearranged word is mentioned when the call is made, &c.) This rule does not apply to the transmission of telegrams to the subscribers by 'phone.

BELGIUM—*Continued.*

No. 292c.

(Translation.)

TELEPHONE GROUPS.

(Doc. VI., p. 2.)

The following are the telephone groups into which the Belgian telephone service is divided:—

Antwerp.—Boom, Cappellen, Lierre, Moll, Turnhout.

Arlon.—Bastogne, Bertrix, Etalle, Florenville, Lavaux, Libramont, Messancy, Neufchateau, St. Hubert, Tentigny, Virton.

Brussels.—Braine-L'Alleud, Braine-Le-Comte, Cortenberg, Court, St. Etienne, Enghien, Gembloux, Genappe, Groenendael, Hal, Nivelles, Overysse, Vilvorde, Virginal, Wavre.

Charleroi.—Acoz, Beaumont, Binche, Chatilneau, Fleurus, Florennes, Fontain-L'Évêque, Gosselies, Labuissière, La Louvière, Nalinnes, Philippeville, Sivry, Tamines, Thuillies, Thuin, Walcourt.

Chimay.—Couvin, Mariembourg, Momegnies, Seloignes.

Courtrai.—Iseghem, Menin, Mouscron, Poperinghe, Roulers, Ypres.

Ghent.—Audenarde, Berchem, Deynzi, Eecloo, Renaix, Selzæte, Thielt.

Landen.—Diest, Hannut, Hasselt, Jodoigne, Looz, Orp, St. Trond, Tirelemont, Waremmme.

Liege.—Amy, Andenne, Engis, Esneux, Fexhe, Huy, Marché, Modave, Ouffet, Scheit, Seraing, Tinlot, Spri, Mont, Trooz, Vise.

Coast Group.—Bruges, Ostende, Blankenberg, Dixmude, Furnes, Ghistelles, Heyst, Middekerke, Nieuport, Thourout.

Louvain.—

Malines.—

Mons.—Dour, Escaussinnes, Feluy, Givry, La Bouverie, Quevy, Quievrain, Roisin, St. Ghislain, Soignies.

Namur.—Beauraing, Ciney, Dinant, Gedinne, Havelange, Mesnil, St. Blaise, Profondeville, Rochefort, Yoor.

Termonde.—Alost, Lokeren, St. Nicolas.

Tournai.—Antoing, Ath, Brugelette, Celles, Leuze, Pecq, Peruwelz, Quevaucamps, Taintegnies, Templeuve.

Verviers.—Spa, Stavelot, Vielsalm.

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APPENDIX No. 1

HOURS OF SERVICE.

Antwerp, Brussels, Charleroi, Ghent, Liege, Mons, Namur, Tournai and Verviers:—Continuous day and night.

Arlon, Chimay, Courtrai, Landen, and Termonde:—7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Louvain:—7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

In some towns in the coast telephone group: 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; in the smaller systems adjacent to Brussels, Antwerp, Liege, Ghent, Verviers, etc., where the service is continuous: 7 a.m. to 7, 8 and 9 p.m.

On Sundays and feast days, 9 a.m. to 12 noon; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. These hours vary in the different exchanges, while in some cases on Sundays and feast days there are different hours of service from those specified above. In some cases the service on these days is from 8 a.m. to 7 and 8 p.m.

PUBLIC CALL STATIONS.

In the larger cities the service is permanent in some stations, while in others the hours are mostly from 7 a.m. until 7, 8, or 9 p.m.

On Sundays and feast days the service is mostly from 9 a.m. until 12 noon, or 1 p.m., while in a few instances, the service is from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., or from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In some of the public call stations the hours of service vary, according to the season of the year; as, for instance, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. during the summer months; and from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. during the winter months.

The following are the legal feast days, which are kept in Belgium, and the neighbouring countries with which international telephone service is carried on. These feast days are classified along with Sundays, so far as service in the central stations are concerned:—

Belgium.—Ascension, the Feast of the Assumption, All Saints and Christmas. On the Mondays after Easter and Pentecost, the hours of service are reduced, in the central stations.

Germany.—New Year's Day, the 27th of January, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Ascension, the Monday after Pentecost, Corpus Christi, Fast Day, All Saints, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day.

France.—New Year's Day, Shrove Tuesday (Mardi-Gras), Easter Monday, Ascension, the Monday after Pentecost, the 14th of July, the Feast of the Assumption, All Saints, Christmas Day.

The Grand Duchy of Luxemburg.—The Mondays after Easter and Pentecost, Ascension, the Feast of the Assumption, All Saints, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day.

Holland.—Good Friday, Easter Monday, Ascension, the Monday after Pentecost, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day.

BELGIUM.—Continued.

No. 292d.

(Translation.)

TELEPHONE RATES.

I. LOCAL SERVICE.

(Doc. II., p. 80.)

1. An ordinary subscriber's station comprises the apparatus necessary for transmitting and receiving; an ordinary subscriber's station connected directly with the central exchange is a 'principal' subscriber's station; other ordinary subscribers' stations, which can be connected with the central exchange through the principal

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subscriber's station, are termed supplementary stations. All materials required for the purpose of completing the ordinary equipment are considered as accessories.

2. All materials, without exception, required for making connection with the telephone system, have to be supplied, installed and maintained by the management, which rents out the same. Consequently in cases where there are private telephone arrangements already existing between two establishments, or different branches of the same establishment, which the applicant for a principal subscriber's station wishes to have connected with the telephone exchange system, the management may consent to purchase such private line or lines, as well as the apparatus and accessories. The management completes the installation, if this is necessary, and then fixes the rates, as if the line and the apparatus had been installed by the management itself.

3. The distance which forms the basis of calculation for fixing the rates to be paid by each principal subscriber's station, is measured, in a straight line between the said station and the exchange, or the centre of the district, according to the circumstances of the case. For this purpose maps drawn up by the Military Chartographic Institute, are used. If the interests of the service, or financial reasons so require, the management may connect within the same telephone group a subscriber to an exchange, other than the one nearest to him. In this case, the rates are fixed according to the distance of the subscriber from the nearest central exchange. On the other hand, when the rates for several stations belonging to the same subscriber, connected to different central exchanges of the same telephone group, give a smaller aggregate return than would result from the application of the rates applying to supplementary stations, these may be applied, by fixing the rates according to the amount specified for multiple subscriptions; when such procedure is in the interests of the management. This exception is only made, however, in telephone groups which are specially designated by the central management.

The foregoing regulations are for the purpose of preventing any obstruction of the auxiliary circuits that connect the various systems of one group; and also to guard against any interfering with the subscriber's circuits, when new systems are being constructed in the neighbourhood of residences, etc., which are already connected to an existing system. The managers of the systems consider that in such circumstances it will be in the interests of the management to apply the exceptional regulations specified above. For this reason the managers submit proposals to the Technical Bureau, and do not make any agreements with subscribers without having received due authority.

4. A local subscriber who relinquishes his principal or supplementary desk telephone in the residence occupied by him, and who requests the management to move the same to other premises, may have his request granted, although, as a rule, a station cannot be moved beyond the limits of the same premises, and the distance from one switch to another must not exceed the limits covered by the special rates fixed for supplementary stations.

Each of these switches require special jacks. On account of restricting the use of flexible cords, the jacks must be adapted, as far as possible to the article of furniture (desks, tables, &c.) where the station is to be placed, in the same manner as the multiple jacks of the operator's apparatus in connection with multiple switchboards.

The special installations are subject to the following annual rates:—

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| (1) For a second switch | 25 fr. (\$4.83) |
| (2) For each additional switch .. | 5 fr. (97c.) |

In the case of a subscription for one-half year, the above charges are reduced 30 per cent.

5. If the supplementary installations requested are not specified in the ordinary fixed scale of charges, or if the said arrangements have to be carried out under exceptional circumstances, then the manager of the telephone system in question must refer the matter to the Technical Bureau before taking any steps towards carrying out the required arrangements.

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6. In the groups at Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent, Liege, Mons and Verviers, and in the systems at Louvain and Malines, the rates for local subscribers are fixed as follows:—

a. DIRECT LINES WITH ONE TELEPHONE.

1. Within a radius of $1\frac{1}{2}$ km. (4,921 ft.)
in a straight line from the central
station Liege Fr. 175 (\$33.78)
2. Over $1\frac{1}{2}$ km. ($1\frac{1}{8}$ mile), and up to 3
km. ($1\frac{1}{8}$ miles) in a straight line
from the central station Liege Fr. 225 (\$43.43)
3. Within a radius of 3 km. ($1\frac{1}{8}$ miles)
in a straight line, either from the
central station, or from the centre
of the telephone district

Antwerp	}	Fr. 250 (\$48.25)
Brussels		
Ghent	}	Fr. 200 (\$38.60)
Verviers		
Mons . . .		Fr. 150 (\$28.95)
Louvain	}	Fr. 125 (\$24.13)
Malines		
4. For each kilometre (about $\frac{5}{8}$ mile)
over and above the fixed radius of 3
km. ($1\frac{1}{8}$ miles)

Antwerp	}	Fr. 50 (\$9.65)
Brussels		
Ghent	}	Fr. 35 (\$6.76)
Liege		
Verviers		
Mons . . .		Fr. 30 (\$5.79)
Louvain	}	
Malines		

Note.—The distance is measured from the central exchange in the telephone systems of Antwerp, Boom, Brussels, Ghent, Hal, Liege, Louvain, Mons, Spa, Trooz, and Verviers. In the other principal and auxiliary telephone systems, the distance is measured from a central point, fixed by the management, which is the centre of the district served by the central exchange.

b. SUPPLEMENTARY AND ACCESSORY ARRANGEMENTS.

An ordinary supplementary station, 50 fr. (\$9.65).

An extra Bell:—

a. Mons, 10 fr. (\$1.93).

b. In other places, 7.50 fr. (\$1.45).

An extra large bell: Malines and Louvain, 12 fr. (\$2.32).

Switches for intermediate stations:—

a. Malines and Louvain, 5 fr. (97c.).

b. Other places free.

A switch with indicator:—

a. Liege, 10 fr. (\$1.93).

b. Other places, 5 fr. (97c.).

A switch with 2 indicators:—

a. Liege, 20 fr. (\$3.86).

b. Other places, 10 fr. (\$1.93).

A relay with special Bell:—

Malines and Louvain, 10 fr. (\$1.93).

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An extra telephone receiver:—

- a. Malines, not stated.
- b. Other places, 5 fr. (97c.).

N.B.—The subscription rates for a single connection in the principal telephone systems of Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent, Liege, Mons, and Verviers, apply also to their auxiliary systems, with the limitation, that in the said auxiliary systems there has to be paid for the use of a second wire necessary for a metallic circuit, an extra charge of 20 fr. (\$3.86), within the radius of the first inclusive kilometre ($\frac{5}{8}$ mile), and 10 fr. (\$1.93) for every inclusive $\frac{1}{2}$ km. ($\frac{1}{8}$ mile) over and above the first km.

RATES APPLYING EXCLUSIVELY TO THE TELEPHONE GROUP OF CHARLEROI.

An ordinary subscriber's principal stations with metallic circuit, within the radius of 3 km. ($1\frac{7}{8}$ miles) in a straight line, from the centre of the district where the central exchange is situated.. . . .	Fr. 200.00 (\$38.60)
For each additional km. ($\frac{5}{8}$ mile) beyond the fixed radius of 3 km. ($1\frac{7}{8}$ miles)	Fr. 50.00 (\$ 9.65)
An ordinary supplementary station.. . . .	Fr. 50.00 (\$ 9.65)
An additional bell.. . . .	Fr. 7.50 (\$ 1.45)
An additional telephone receiver...	Fr. 5.00 (97c.)
A switch with one or more points, or for an intermediate station	Free.
A switch with indicator.. . . .	Fr. 5.00 (97c.)
A switch with two indicators.. . . .	Fr. 10.00 (\$ 1.93)

In the group of Liege and Charleroi no reduction is made in the rates for second and subsequent stations of the same subscriber.

Each annual subscription, for second and subsequent stations of the same person or business establishments, is subject to the following reductions:—

- (1) In the telephone groups of Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent and Verviers, a reduction of 50 francs (\$9.65).
- (2) In the telephone systems of Louvain and Malines, a reduction of 12.50 francs (\$2.41).

The reduction is only granted for the period of time to which the various subscriptions apply, and not for limited periods.

Agreements are granted to subscribers for half-yearly periods, to terminate at the end of three half-yearly periods, or at the end of three consecutive years. If subscriptions are paid within each half year, a reduction of 30 per cent is allowed.

In the telephone systems of Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent, Liege, Louvain, Malines, Mons and Verviers, the addition of a second wire (metallic circuit) to a single (grounded) wire connection, calls for an extra charge, equal to 50 per cent of the rates specified for a principal station connected by a single (grounded) wire. This extra charge, however, must not exceed 100 fr. (\$19.30) for the first 3 kilometres ($1\frac{7}{8}$ miles).

The rates specified for stations and accessories, and for ordinary supplementary stations include the free use of 50 metres (55 yards) of line (wire), measured in a straight line from the principal station, and extending in the direction of all the stations that are installed on the supplementary circuit.

7. In the telephone groups of Arlon, Chimay, Courtrai, Landen, the Coast Group, Namur, Termond and Tournai, the specified rates are given in the following table:—

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	Tariff A on a Three Years, Contract per Annum.		Tariff B on a Yearly Contract per Annum.		Tariff C Half Yearly for Three Consecutive Years. Per $\frac{1}{2}$ year.	
	Francs.	\$ cts.	Francs.	\$ cts.	Francs.	\$ cts.
I. A principal subscribers station, connected by metallic circuit with the Central Exchange—						
a. Within a radius of 1 km. ($\frac{5}{8}$ mile) from centre of district where the Central Exchange is located.....	150	28 95	170	32 81	119	22 97
b. More than 1 km. ($\frac{5}{8}$ mile) and up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ km. ($1\frac{1}{8}$ mile).....	162	31 27	187 50	36 19	131 25	25 33
c. More than $1\frac{1}{2}$ km. ($1\frac{5}{8}$ miles) and up to 2 km. ($1\frac{3}{4}$ miles).....	174	33 58	205	39 57	143 50	27 70
d. More than 2 km. ($1\frac{3}{4}$ miles) and up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ km. ($1\frac{5}{4}$ miles).....	189	36 48	222 50	42 94	155 75	30 06
e. More than $2\frac{1}{2}$ km. ($1\frac{5}{4}$ miles) and up to 3 km. ($1\frac{7}{4}$ miles).....	204	39 37	240	46 32	168	32 42
f. More than 3 km. ($1\frac{7}{4}$ miles) and up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ km. ($2\frac{1}{4}$ miles).....	221 50	42 75	257 50	49 70	180 25	34 79
g. More than $3\frac{1}{2}$ km. ($2\frac{1}{4}$ miles) and up to 4 km. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ miles).....	239	46 13	275	53 08	192 50	37 15
For each additional $\frac{1}{2}$ km. ($\frac{5}{8}$ mile) inclusive, over and above the specified 4 km. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ miles).....	17 50	3 37	17 50	3 37	12 25	2 36
II. Accessory and supplementary installations.						
For an ordinary telephone station, connected with the principal station.....	30	5 79	35	6 76	24 50	4 73
For a magneto-bell.....	5	0 97	5	0 97	3 50	0 68
For an ordinary bell.....	4	0 77	4	0 77	2 80	0 54
For a switch with one or several points, or for intermediate station.....	5	0 97	5	0 97	3 50	0 68
For an overhead metallic circuit according to actual length, between stations—						
50 metres (55 yards), or less.....	free.	free.	free.
More than 50 metres (55 yards) up to 250 metres ($\frac{5}{8}$ mile).....	45	8 69	65	12 55	45 50	8 78
More than 250 metres ($\frac{5}{8}$ mile) up to 1 km. ($\frac{5}{4}$ mile).....	95	18 34	110	21 23	77	14 86
More than 1 km. ($\frac{5}{4}$ mile) and for each extra $\frac{1}{2}$ km. ($\frac{5}{8}$ mile) over and above the first km. ($\frac{5}{4}$ mile).....	45	8 69	60	11 58	42	8 11

As an exception to what is specified in Section 1 of the preceding table, the rate for each subscriber's connection in the telephone system of Nieuport (in the coast telephone group) is governed according to circumstances by the shortest distance, in a straight line, between the subscriber's station and the centre of the town of Nieuport on the one hand, or the station of Nieuport-Bains on the other hand.

Subscribers for second and subsequent stations of the same person or business in the local telephone service of the Arlon group, do not receive any reduction of rates.

In each of the telephone groups of Chimay, Courtrai and Namur, a reduction of 15 francs (\$2.90) is granted on the amount of annual rates to each yearly or three-yearly subscription for a second or subsequent station taken by the same person or business establishment.

In the telephone groups of Landen, the coast group, Termonde and Tournai, a reduction of 10 per cent. is allowed on each yearly, three-yearly and half-yearly subscriptions for stations taken in addition to the first, calculated on the average rates for the various classes of service, considered as single subscriptions for subscribers' ordinary principal stations. As a general rule, in the telephone groups mentioned in the present section multiple subscriptions must be payable on the same date. When this is not already provided for, new agreements arranged to begin on the same date and to continue for at least the same period of time as the existing agreements must be sub-

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stituted for the latter. These reductions are only granted for the full periods of time, during which each of the agreements for the various classes of service has to run, according to the specified regulations.

When the length of line connecting a supplementary station with a principal station exceeds one km. ($\frac{5}{8}$ mile), the rates to be fixed for this extra length of line, added to the rates specified for an ordinary supplementary station, and for such accessories as are necessary for making connection with the subscriber's principal station, must be at least equal to the rates paid for an ordinary station. This rule applies to multiple subscriptions for several stations taken by the same person or business establishment.

The length of the supplementary outside lines are measured without taking into consideration the inside (leading-in) wires.

8. The rates for local telephone connections made from a public call station are fixed at 25 centimes (5 cents) for an indivisible unit of time, lasting for 5 minutes.

Persons who are furnished with regular tickets entitling the holder to have free local connections from the public call stations, are not required to pay this charge.

9. The rate for subscribers who have regular telephone connections with the service established in railway stations, is 100 frs. (\$19.30) yearly; or 60 frs. (\$11.58) half-yearly.

Subscribers of this class are subject to special regulations. These regulations are given in 'Supplement 21,' which is annexed to the 'Special Regulations relating to the Telephone System.'

LIST OF CHARGES FOR MOVING A TELEPHONE, ETC.

	Francs.	
Within the same premises:—		
(a) An ordinary principal or supplementary station	7.50	(\$1.45)
(b) An ordinary principal or supplementary station, with fixtures, viz., insulated wire, cable, iron work, (fixtures), &c.	10.00	(\$1.93)
(c) A supplementary Bell.	2.50	(48c.)
(d) A supplementary Bell, with outside fixtures	5.00	(97c.)
(e) A switch with indicators per indicator	1.00	(19c.)
(f) A switch, with one or more points.	2.00	(38c.)
(g) A switch moved at the same time as on ordinary station.	Free	
Removal to other premises:—		
(h) An ordinary principal or supplementary station. . . .	12.50	(\$2.41)
(i) A supplementary Bell.	5.00	(97c.)
(j) A switch with indicators, per indicator.	1.50	(29c.)
(k) A switch, with one or more points.	2.50	(48c.)
(l) A switch removed at the same time as an ordinary station.	Free	

N.B.—These charges apply to work done within a radius of 3 km. ($1\frac{3}{4}$ miles), in a straight line from the central point fixed in the agreement. Beyond this radius the charges are increased 0.50 fr. (10 cents) for each extra km. ($\frac{5}{8}$ mile) or fraction thereof.

RATES—Continued.

II.—INTERURBAN SERVICE.

(Doc. II., p. 90.)

10. The rates for ordinary conversations. in interurban service, are as follows:—
 1 franc ($19\frac{1}{2}$ cents) for an indivisible unit of time, allowed for conversation.
 1 franc, 50 centimes (29 cents) for a conversation lasting two units of the specified time.

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11. Subscriber's monthly rates, in interurban service, are fixed as follows:—

2	units of conversation, or less, daily..	35.00 frs. (\$ 6.76)
3	" " "	52.50 frs. (\$10.14)
4	" " "	70.00 frs. (\$13.51)
5	" " "	85.00 frs. (\$16.41)

Each additional unit..	15.00 frs. (\$ 2.90)
------------------------	----------------------

12. The unit of time for which rates are collected, and during which interurban conversations can be carried on, is five minutes.

The public and private telephone stations installed in the buildings of the Stock Exchanges at Brussels and Antwerp include:—

- (1) Special telephone booths placed at the disposal of the bankers and stock exchange agents; which may also be used by other persons who frequent the stock exchanges.
- (2) The public telephone bureau in each of the stock exchanges.
- (3) Subscriber's stations installed in the stock exchange buildings.

On the days that the stock exchanges are not open for traffic, the time allowed for interurban conversations is in all cases five minutes.

13. In the case of interurban conversations commencing when the unit of time allowed is five minutes, and concluding during the hours specified for stock exchange service, when the time allowed is three minutes, and *vice versa*, the following regulation has to be followed:—

The procedure to be followed in each of the three cases which may supervene, in this matter, is as follows:—

- (1) A conversation of 1 unit is to be charged at the rates fixed for the period of time allowance in force when such conversation is commenced.
- (2) A conversation of 2 units where the second unit of time falls within the two different periods of time allowance (*i.e.*, 5 minutes and 3 minutes, or *vice versa*, is charged for at the rate in force when the conversation was commenced.
- (3) A conversation of 2 units, where the first unit (of 5 or 3 minutes, as the case may be) falls within the two different periods of service, is to be charged for as follows:—The first unit at the rates specified for the period of time allowance in force when the conversation was commenced; and the second unit at the rate specified for the other period of time allowance, with a reduction of 50 per cent.

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In interurban service, (Doc. I., p. 39):—

- (1) When conversations, comprising two units of the specified time allowed, and the first unit of time is covered by the subscription agreement, the second unit is charged for at the rate of 1 franc (19½ cents).
- (2.) When a conversation comprises three units of the specified time, and the first unit of time is covered by the subscription agreement, the last two units are charged for at the rate of 1 franc, 50 centimes (29 cents). (Doc. I., p. 39.)

RATES—Continued.

III. CHARGES FOR TELEGRAMS, LONG-DISTANCE CONVERSATIONS AND TELEPHONE MESSAGES.

Subscribers who wish to transmit telephone messenger calls; to converse with another telephone system or group; to use the interurban or international long-distance service from their own stations; or to send telegrams by 'phone to the telegraph bureaux, must deposit an amount equal to the estimated charges due for one month. This deposit must be at least 5 francs for each subscriber's station.

At the end of each month the subscriber is notified of the amount of charges owing, and is requested to pay the same within 3 days. After this period, the said charges are collected by mail at the subscriber's expense. If payment is not made, no further long-distance connections are allowed within or without Belgium unless the charges are paid in advance; and the central station may refuse connections with the telegraph bureau, for the transmission of telegrams by 'phone.

Subscribers who have made a deposit are responsible for the payment of the following charges:—

- (1) The charges for all the long-distance conversations in Belgium and with other countries, requested from their own stations.
- (2) The charges for telephone messenger calls, and for all telegrams transmitted from their own stations, by any person.

RATES—Continued.

IV. INTERNATIONAL SERVICE.

a. Between Belgium and France.

14. The charges for ordinary conversations, and the subscription rates, in the service, between Belgium and France, are fixed according to zones, as follows:—

Series.	Single toll conversations, of an indivisible unit of 3 minutes duration each.		MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES, DAY AND NIGHT.		
			For a daily conversation of :—		
	Day Rates.	Night Rates.	6 Minutes Duration.	9 Minutes Duration.	12 Minutes Duration.
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
1.....	1·50 (29c.)	0 90 (17c.)	45 (\$8.69)	67·50 (\$12.95)	90 (\$17.37)
2.....	2 (39c.)	1·20 (23c.)	60 (\$11.58)	90 (\$17.37)	120 (\$23.15)
3.....	2·50 (48c.)	1·50 (29c.)	75 (\$14.48)	112·50 (\$21.52)	150 (\$28.95)
4.....	3 (58c.)	1·80 (35c.)	90 (\$17.37)	135 (\$26.00)	180 (\$34.74)
5.....	4·75 (92c.)	2·85 (55c.)	142·50 (\$27.50)	213·75 (\$40.25)	285 (\$55.00)
6.....	5·25 (\$1.01)	3·15 (60c.)	157·50 (\$30.40)	236·25 (\$45.60)	315 (\$60.80)

N.B. The Night Rates apply from 8.51 p.m. until 6.51 a.m. during the summer months; and until 7.51 a.m. during the winter months. The winter months comprise November, December, January and February.

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In the list of international connections given in the directory of the telegraph and telephone bureaux of Belgium, the number which follows each telephone group, or telephone system in France, designates the particular zone, according to which the rates are fixed, as specified in the foregoing table.

In the international connections between Belgium and France, the unit of time allowed for ordinary conversations is fixed at 5 minutes. But the time is reduced from 5 minutes to a maximum of 3 minutes in service between Brussels and Antwerp on the one hand and Paris on the other, during week days, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. (Greenwich time). On Sundays, the unit of time allowed for conversation is 5 minutes in all cases.

b. Belgium and Germany.

15. Between Belgium and Germany, the rates are fixed according to the extension of the service. These rules are specified in the lists of connections between Belgium and Germany, which are given in the various long-distance telephone directories kept in the central stations.

Urgent conversations may be carried on by paying a charge equal to 3 times the amount of the ordinary specified rates.

The unit of time allowed for ordinary conversations is 3 minutes.

Subscription agreements are not accorded in service between Belgium and Germany.

The following are the revised rates of service between Belgium and the German Empire (from January 1, 1902):—

IN BELGIUM.

(Doc. V., No. 473.)

Communications sent from or to the telephone groups of Liege and Verviers, zone 1, Fr. 0.625 (12c.).

Communications sent from or to the other Belgian telephone groups, zone 2, Fr. 1.25 (24c.).

IN GERMANY.

Communications sent from or to the telephone systems within the territory of general postal management of Aix-la-Chapelle, zone 1, Fr. 0.625 (12c.).

Communications sent from or to the telephone systems within the territory of Cologne (on the Rhine) and Dusseldorf, zone 2, Fr. 1.25 (24c.).

Communications sent from or to the telephone systems not included in zones 1 and 2, Fr. 2.25 (48c.).

The total rates apply to communications sent from Belgium and which are exchanged between:—

- (1) The telephone systems within the 1st Belgian zone and the systems within the 2nd German zone.
- (2) The telephone systems within the 2nd Belgian zone and the systems within the 1st German zone.
- (3) The telephone systems within the 1st Belgian zone and those of the 3rd German zone. These rates are, 2 francs (38c.) for the first two divisions, classified above, and 3 francs (58c.) for the third division.

c. BELGIUM AND THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBURG.

16. In service with the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, the rates are fixed according to zones, as follows:—

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Designation of the Zones.	Charge for an indivisible unit of time of 3 minutes.	AMOUNT OF SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR.	
		A daily indivisible unit of time of 6 minutes.	A daily indivisible unit of time of 9 minutes.
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Within the 1st zone.....	1·25 (24c.)	37·50 (\$7.24)	56·25 (\$10.86)
Within the 2nd zone.....	2·00 (39c.)	60·00 (\$11.58)	90 (\$17.37)
Within the 3rd zone.....	2·50 (48c.)	75·00 (\$14.48)	112·50 (\$21.71)

In the list of international connections with the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, given in the directory of the telegraph and telephone bureaux of Belgium, the number which follows each telephone group, or telephone system, in Belgium, designates the particular zone, according to which the rates are fixed, as specified in the foregoing table.

d. BELGIUM AND HOLLAND.

17. In service with Holland, the rates are fixed according to zones, as follows:—

Designation of the Zone.	Charge for an indivisible unit of time. of 3 minutes.	AMOUNT OF SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR.	
		A daily indivisible unit of time of 6 minutes.	A daily indivisible unit of time of 9 minutes.
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Within the 1st zone*.....	1·25 (24c.)	37·50 (\$7.24)	56·25 (\$10.86)
Within the 2nd zone.....	3 (58c.)	90 (\$17.37)	135 (\$26.06)

* Telephone groups of Liège and Verviers and Heerlen, Maastricht and Valkenburg; between Antwerp and Bergen-op-Zoom and Rozendaal; between Verviers and Kerkrade; and between coast telephone groups and Flushing.

In the list of international connections given in the directory of the telegraph and telephone bureaux of Belgium, the number which follows each telephone group, or telephone system, in Holland, designates the particular zone, according to which the rates are fixed, as specified in the foregoing table.

e. BETWEEN BELGIUM AND GREAT BRITAIN.

In service with Great Britain, the rate is 10 fr. (\$1.93) per unit of three minutes conversation. Subscription agreements may be arranged for during night hours at a charge of one-half of the foregoing rate. (See agreement, Doc. IV., Article 7 and 8, pp. 599, 600.)

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BELGIUM—*Continued.*

No. 292e.

(Translation.)

NEW REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE TELEPHONE SERVICE BETWEEN BELGIUM AND FRANCE.

I. GENERAL AGREEMENT.

(Doc. III., No. 439.)

His Majesty, the King of the Belgians, and the President of the French Republic, desiring to arrange the telephone service between Belgium and France, and exercising the authority accorded to them, by Article 17 of the International Telegraph Agreement, signed at St. Petersburg, on July 22, 1875, have resolved to conclude a general agreement on this subject, and have appointed the following as their plenipotentiaries:—

For His Majesty the King of the Belgians—

Baron D'Anethan, his Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary, to the President of the French Republic.

For the President of the French Republic—

Mons. Delcassé, member of the Chamber of Deputies, and Minister of Foreign Affairs: who, having communicated their full powers, which have been found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following regulations:—

1. The telephone service between Belgium and France is insured by means of conducting wires, the diameter, conductibility, and insulation of which agree with the conditions under which the said telephone service ought to be carried on. These wires are arranged, as far as possible, to avoid all inductive influences. Each of the two telephone managements has to carry out, at its own expense, within its own territory, the work of constructing and maintaining the telephone lines. Telephone communications may be sent to or from public call offices, or subscriber's stations.

2. Unless a contrary decision shall be mutually agreed upon by both governments, the circuits specially constructed for the telephone service, are to be exclusively used for that purpose. The two governments may also mutually agree to use the telegraph lines for the exchange of telephonic communications.

3. The unit of time to be allowed for conversation, and for which the specified rates are to be charged, is three minutes.

4. Government communications are to have the same precedence which has been accorded to government telegrams by Article 5 of the International Agreement, signed at St. Petersburg on July 10 and 22, 1875. The government communications are not to be limited as to the length of time occupied in conversation.

5. Rates are to be paid by the person who requests the connections. The rates are the total amount of the elementary charges, specified below, for a conversation of three minutes duration:—

a. In Belgium.

Seventy-five centimes (14½ cents) for communications originating from, or sent to, the telephone group of Courtrai, and the telephone systems forming part of the groups whose principal centres are situated in the provinces of Hainault, Namur and Luxemburg—zone 1.

One franc, 25 centimes (24 cents) for communications sent from, or to, the other Belgian telephone systems—zone 2.

b. In France.

Seventy-five centimes (14½ cents) for communications from or to the telephone centres of the following departments:—Nord, Pas-de-Calais, Aisne, Ardennes, Meuse and Meurthe-et-Moselle—zone 1.

One franc, 75 centimes (33½ cents) for communications sent from, or to, the telephone systems of the departments whose chief city is situated within a circle, drawn

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from Paris as the centre, having a radius of 300 km. and excluding the departments that form the first zone—zone 2.

Four francs (77½ cents) for communications sent from, or to, the telephone centres of the departments that are not included in the two first zones—zone 3.

The two governments may, by mutual agreement, modify the elementary charges and reduce the same during the hours of night service.

6. The managements concerned will mutually agree regarding the kind of circuits by which the international service is to be carried on; and also regarding the various cities that are to be admitted to the service; and also the hours during which the service is to be granted.

7. After a mutual agreement has been arrived at, by both governments, a system of subscriptions may be arranged for, at fixed hours, for service between Belgium and France.

8. The two telephone managements will mutually designate the circuits that are to be used for subscriber's conversations, as also the hours during which the subscribers may carry on conversations.

9. The portion of the rates belonging to the lines within each territory, is to be paid to each management, according to the scale given in Article 5. The receipts resulting from the telephone service, are to be handled by each management, as a special account, to be kept separate from the receipts received from the telegraph service.

10. After a mutual agreement has been arrived at, telephone service may be opened up with neighbouring countries, by means of the various telephone systems of the different managements, *i.e.*, Belgium and France.

11. On the basis of Article 8 of the international agreement signed at St. Petersburg, each of the contracting government reserves to itself the right to suspend the telephone service altogether or in part, without being held liable for any compensation in so doing.

12. The telephone managements of the two countries are not responsible in any way for private communications sent over the telephone lines.

13. The terms of the present agreement are to be completed by regulations of service, mutually agreed upon by the two telephone managements concerned.

14. The present agreement abrogates the agreement that was concluded at Paris on August 31, 1891. This agreement shall come into force on a date to be fixed upon by the two managements concerned. It shall continue in force during one year, from the time that it has been rescinded by one or the other two managements concerned.

In testimony of which the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present agreement, to which they have also affixed their seals.

Signed in duplicate, at Paris, on October 29, 1898.

BARON D'ANETHAN.

DELCASSE.

II.—REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE TELEPHONE SERVICE BETWEEN BELGIUM AND FRANCE.

1. During night hours.
2. Under subscription agreements.

The Director General of the Telegraph Department of Belgium, of the one part, and the Under Secretary of State for the Post Office and Telegraph Department of France, of the other, after duly considering the general agreement of October 29, 1898, containing:—

1. Article 5 (last paragraph), that 'the two governments may modify the elementary charges, and reduce the same, during the hours of night service.'
2. Article 7, that 'after a mutual agreement has been arrived at by both governments, a system of subscription may be arranged for, at fixed hours, for service between Belgium and France.'
3. Article 8, that 'the two telephone managements will mutually designate the circuits that are to be used for subscribers' connections, as also the hours during which the subscribers may carry on conversations,'

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have agreed upon the following rules:—

1. The elementary rates specified for telephonic communications between Belgium and France, exchanged between 9 p.m. (Paris time) and 7 a.m. (Paris time), during the summer months, and 8 a.m. during the winter months, are fixed for an indivisible unit of time, consisting of three minutes, at three-fifths ($\frac{3}{5}$) of the ordinary elementary rates specified in Article 5 of the general agreement.

The winter months are November, December, January and February.

2. Subscription agreements may be arranged for telephonic communications exchanged during night hours—from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m., during the summer months, and until 8 a.m. during the winter months (Paris time).

Subscription agreements may also be arranged for conversations to be exchanged during the day, if the two managements are convinced that no inconvenience will result therefrom for the regular telephone service. But subscribers' conversations will not be allowed during the hours when the stock exchanges, which have regular telephone service, are open.

3. Subscribers' conversations must be exclusively on matters relating to the personal affairs or business concerns of the subscribers.

The duration of the term of subscription is to be for an indivisible period of one month, and is prolonged from month to month by a tacit agreement, unless notice of withdrawal is given on either side.

The subscription may be cancelled on both sides by notice being given to this effect, eight days before the termination of a monthly period of subscription. The amount of rates for a subscription must be paid in advance. One subscription cannot be held by several persons conjointly.

4. The minimum duration of conversations between two subscribers is to be double the unit of time allowed for one conversation

An exchange of conversations between two subscribers lasting for three or four units of the ordinary time allowed, may be mutually arranged for between the managements.

5. The monthly rates for subscribers' conversations, estimated for a minimum period of 30 days, is calculated at half the ordinary rates, specified in Article 5 of the general agreement for a conversation lasting 3 minutes.

6. The connections between the two subscribers' stations designated in the contract of agreement are made by the central exchanges at the exact time agreed upon by both subscribers; unless another conversation is already being carried on between two other persons.

The minutes (time allowance) not utilized for conversation must not be carried over to another conversation; but if the said time allowance is not utilized on account of some interruption in the service, the exact number of minutes lost is allowed, if at all possible, to the subscriber, during the same day.

7. On making request for the same a subscriber will be reimbursed for each period of 24 consecutive hours of total interruption in the service by receiving one-thirtieth ($\frac{1}{30}$) part of the amount of the monthly subscription rates.

8. The terms of the present arrangement are to be completed by rules of service mutually agreed upon by the two telephone managements.

9. The present arrangement is to come into force on the same date that the general agreement passes into effect, and is to continue in operation for the same length of time as the said general agreement.

Signed in duplicate,

At Paris, on February 2, 1900.

LEON MOUGEOT,

Under Secretary of State,

Post Office and Telegraph Departments of France.

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At Brussels, on February 8, 1900.

F. DELARGE,

Director-General of the Telegraphs, &c.

Approved by

JUL. LIEBÆRT,

Minister of the Railway, Post Office and Telegraph Departments.

III. REGULATIONS FOR THE TELEPHONE SERVICE.

(See p. 592, par. 13, and p. 593, par. 8.)

1. Each morning when the daily service commences, the central telephone stations having direct connection with one another, are to test the conditions of the connections, the one with the other.

The tests are to be made of the call signals, in both directions; and for the audibility of speech. The results of these tests are to be entered into registers, by each of the central exchange stations in question.

Electric tests are to be made every month regarding the conductivity and insulation of the circuits. The tests have also to be made when there is persistent derangement of the lines.

2. The hours are to be regulated according to the Paris and Brussels time. The official time in France is that of the meridian of Paris; and in Belgium that of the meridian of Greenwich, which is 9 minutes behind that of Paris.

The Central exchange stations in direct connection with each other, are to exchange the time as often as may be necessary. This is to be done at least at the commencement and the close of the daily hours of service. The clocks are to be regulated as soon as they show a difference of more than one minute from the official time.

3. The service is permanent in the Central exchange of Brussels and Paris. The days and hours of service in the other central exchanges and in the public call stations are fixed by the managements, according to the existing circumstances.

4. Connections are made :—

1. Between the stations of two subscribers.
2. Between two public call stations.
3. Between a subscriber's station and a public call station.

As a general rule, connections are not allowed which require the intervention of more than five intermediate central exchanges, including the transmitting and receiving exchanges. The managements mutually designate the central telephone exchanges of the two countries which are to have service with each other, and specify the various telephone lines to be used.

5. The managements take all necessary steps to insure the secrecy of all telephonic communications.

6. Ordinary communications, sent during the summer months from 7 a.m., and during the winter months from 8 a.m. up to 9 p.m. (Paris time), pay the full rates specified in Article 5 of the 'General Agreement.' Communications sent from 9 p.m. up till 7 or 8 a.m., according to the season of the year, pay the reduced rates that are specified in Article 1 of the 'Arrangement' agreed upon on February 2, and 8, 1900.

The winter months are November, December, January and February. The liability to pay the specified charges, connections requested by one subscriber with another, begins at the moment when connections have been made between the station calling up and the station asked for. For connections from a public call station to a subscriber's station, the liability to pay the specified charges begins as soon as connections have been made with the subscriber's station asked for. In both cases the charges have to be paid without regard to the person who replies from the subscriber's station called. Finally, when connections are asked for with a public call station, the liability to pay the charges begins as soon as the person calling up is placed in connection with the subscriber's station asked for, or with the person calling up from BELGIUM.

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the public call station as the case may be. The charges are collected either from the subscriber from whose station the call is sent, or from the person at the public call station who requests the connections. The time during which the call is being made, either from the subscriber's stations or from the public call stations is not charged for. As a general rule, this time is limited to 2 minutes during the hours of day service, and to 5 minutes during the hours of night service.

The charges are not collected, when, through any fault in the telephone service, the request for conversation is not followed by connections being effected with the station that has been asked for. If the charge has been already paid, it is reimbursed, according to the special rules of service applying to each telephone bureau. No reduction in the charges can be granted, if, through any fault in the telephone service it is not possible to carry on conversations between the stations that have been connected, even if the central stations or the public call stations may have been requested to verify the impossibility of being able to converse. Any reduction in the charges must be mutually agreed upon between the two telephone managements.

The actual duration of an ordinary conversation between two persons must not exceed twice the unit of time allowed for a single conversation. At the end of this time the connection is broken off by the central station. In the event of the persons conversing not having finished their conversation at the expiration of the first period, they are not allowed a further period immediately following the first, unless there are no requests waiting from other persons for connections. If such requests have been made these connections must be completed according to the order in which they have been asked for.

In cases where the connections have been placed at the disposal of two persons conversing during a longer period of time than double the unit of time allowed for a single conversation, the person who requests the connections has to pay for the length of time that the line is used according to the number of indivisible units of time, i.e., 5 or 3 minutes, as the case may be.

In the matter of government communications, there is no limit as to the length of time during which the lines are in use.

7. Applications for subscription have to be made eight days in advance to the French telephone management at Paris; or to the telegraph management at Brussels. These applications must state specifically the subscriber's stations that have to be connected.

In Paris, besides the private stations of subscribers, conversations at the specified subscription rates are only allowed from the public call stations in the Paris Bourse (stock exchange). Subscription agreements are drawn up in the form of contracts or engagements made in duplicate, by the management which collects the rates. The other office (central exchange) has to receive a copy of this document. The subscription agreement may be arranged to begin on any date, but the monthly period begins only on the 1st or the 16th day of each month.

The proportionate charges for the period from the date when the subscription begins to the commencement of the monthly term (if the subscription is taken out before this date), is added to the subscription for the first month. However, at the subscriber's request, the monthly period may commence on some other date than the 1st or the 16th of the month, if this request is made in due form when the agreement is signed, and the subscriber declares his intention of relinquishing the subscription at the termination of the first monthly period.

As a general rule, an interval of two minutes is reserved between two subscribers' conversations.

8. Each management undertakes to supply its subscribers in the manner that may be considered most convenient, with full information regarding the telephone systems, and the public call stations of the neighbouring country with which the service has been established. The central exchanges of importance and the principal public call stations must possess directories of the subscribers connected with the service, and carefully keep these up to date.

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For this purpose, the various central exchanges concerned exchange gratis a sufficient number of telephone directories of the systems connected with a central exchange, or a public call station. The managements will make the necessary arrangement to have these directories placed on sale for the general public.

9. The telephone connections are made by means of the central exchange. As soon as it is known that the subscriber's station or the public call station calling can be connected with the station called, the central exchange receiving the call from the subscriber communicates with the central exchange at the intermediate or long-distance point, as the case may be, and asks for the called subscriber's station (by number if possible). As soon as the connections have been made, the subscriber or the public call station is informed that this is the case, and asked to begin the conversation.

The 'calling' and 'called' central exchanges note down the time when the connection is made, and, before leaving the circuit, make sure that conversation is satisfactory from both ends. As soon as the conversations are finished, the two subscribers immediately notify (ring up) their respective central exchanges. The time when the conversation terminates is noted down in the register of connections made. When the duration of ordinary conversations is double the unit of time allowed, then the 'calling' or 'called' central exchange follows the regulations given above, in section VI., paragraphs 11 and 12, informing, if possible, the persons conversing, that the connections must be broken.

In the case of subscribers' conversations, the connections are broken off by the central stations, as soon the specified time arranged for in each case has elapsed.

When a central exchange has received a number of requests for connections, then the same are to be made with the various central exchanges concerned, consecutively in the order of time in which such requests were received.

The central exchanges must respond without delay to the calls sent to them. When a central exchange does not respond to the calls, the exchange calling up must send in another call after the lapse of a minute or so, by another circuit. If this cannot be done, or if this does not have the desired effect, then the subscriber calling up must have recourse to the telegraph bureau, in order to inform the central exchange called of the situation.

10. Special services for communications to be forwarded by messengers are not arranged for, nor organized conversations with a public call station cannot be carried on unless an arrangement has been made beforehand between the parties concerned, for the person called to be present in the public call station. The central stations and the public call stations must be careful to give instructions on this point to the persons who wish to converse. When the person wanted, who has been announced as being present in the public call station, does not respond, the connection cannot be continued, unless the specified charge is paid for the time taken up. The same rule applies to communications between the stock exchanges in the French and Belgian cities, where the bureaux in question have an organized service of messengers, to inform the person present of the times when connections are requested. The officials in charge of the public call stations must inform the person requesting connections of the necessary measures to be adopted in using the 'phones, in order to obtain the most satisfactory results. The official in charge of the 'calling' public call station, must note down the exact time when the desired connections have been made, and when the conversations are finished.

As soon as the first unit of time allowed for conversation has elapsed the official must inform the person conversing of the fact, upon which he must at once conclude the conversation, unless he consents to pay the additional charge. The official has the right to require the payment of this charge in advance.

11. A central station, or a public call station, must not suspend or close the service at the specified hours, until all the connections requested before the hour fixed for the suspension or the closing of the service have been completed.

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12. Conversations exclusively relating to the telephone service between France and Belgium may be exchanged free of charge between the officials of the two managements, who have special authority to hold such conversations.

When claiming this privilege, the said officials are bound to state their names and office. If they neglect to do so the central exchange or the public call station who has to make the connections must request this information before the connections are made, unless the identity of the official in question is known. These free conversations are announced from one central exchange to another by the word 'service.' The two managements must take all necessary steps to restrict, as much as possible, each in its own matters of service, the number of such communications. As a general rule, it is preferable to use the telegraph lines for this purpose.

13. Conversations having the right of priority (precedence) are:—

1. Those sent by officials authorized to transmit the government telegraph despatches. Such communications are subject to the ordinary rates.
2. Those by the officials of the two managements, authorized to converse on matters relating to the telephone service, when they claim this privilege, on matters of urgency.

The order in transmitting telephonic communications is fixed as follows:—

1. Government communications.
2. Communications on urgent matters relating to the service.
3. Private communications.
4. Communications relating to the service that are not urgent.

For conversations of the same rank, the connections are made according to the order of request. Subscribers' conversations are interpolated into the order of requests received by the central exchanges, so as to be carried on at the time specified in the agreement. Conversations of the same rank from both ends of the lines, are exchanged in alternate order. Conversations of a higher rank are not included in the alternate order of exchange.

14. As soon as any difficulty in conversing, or any derangement in the service is ascertained, the two managements will take immediate steps to remedy the matter; each in that part of the service pertaining to itself. The central exchanges will advise one another, by telegram, if necessary, of any defects or circumstances which hinder or impede the telephone service.

15. Each management has to keep a register of service, which has to contain, in addition to the points relating to the service, all the necessary details for collecting the rates, and for balancing the international accounts. The accounts are drawn up monthly, and are exchanged between the two managements, according to the form adopted for the telegraph accounts.

In cases of dispute as to the length of conversations, the managements have to refer to the records of the central exchanges which made the connections.

Signed in duplicate.

At Paris, on Feb. 2, 1900.

LEON MOUGEOT,
Under Secretary of State,
for the Post Office and Telegraph
Departments of France.

At Brussels, on Feb. 8, 1900.

F. DELARGE,
Director General,
of the Telegraph Department
of Belgium.

IV.—ROYAL DECREE DETERMINING THE FRANCO-BELGIAN RATES.

Leopold II., King of the Belgians,

To all to whom these presents shall come, *Greeting.*

Whereas, the law of June 11, 1883, extends to the telephone service the provisions specified in the law of March 1, 1851; and

Whereas, the law of December 30, 1899, continues the law of March 1, 1851; and

1—d—39½

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Whereas, an agreement, relating to the organizing of the telephone service between Belgium and France, was entered into on October 29, 1898;

Therefore, on the proposal of Our Minister of Railways, Post Offices and Telegraphs,

We have decreed, and do decree:

1. The elementary rates applicable to telephone communications between Belgium and France, exchanged between the hours of 8.51 p.m. (Eastern European time) and, during the summer months, 6.51 a.m., or during the winter months, 7.51 a.m., are fixed, for a unit of time, consisting of three minutes, at three-fifths ($\frac{3}{5}$) of the ordinary rates, specified in Article V. of the foregoing 'Agreement.' The winter months are November, December, January and February.

2. The monthly rates for subscriber's conversations, between Belgium and France, calculated for a minimum period of 30 days, are fixed, for a unit of time, consisting of three minutes, at the half of the ordinary rates, specified in Article V. of the said 'Agreement.'

The minimum duration of a communication exchanged between two subscribers is double the unit of time allowed for one conversation.

Communications lasting for three or four units of the time allowed, may be granted after arrangements have been made between the two managements. Our Minister for Railways, Post Offices and Telegraphs, is authorized to execute the present Decree; and will fix the date when the same shall come into force.

Given at Laeken, on March 30, 1900.

For the King,

JUL. LIEBAERT,

Minister of Railways, Post Offices and Telegraphs.

V. MINISTERIAL DECREE, ISSUED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE ABOVE ROYAL DECREE.

The Minister of Railways, Post Offices and Telegraphs,

Having duly considered the 'Agreement' of October 29, 1898, relating to the telephone service between Belgium and France;

Having duly considered the Royal Decree, of March 30, 1900, determining the basis according to which the rates applicable to the telephone service between Belgium and France, for ordinary conversations, during night hours, and for conversations exchanged between subscribers, are to be calculated.

Decrees:

Special Article.—May 1, 1900, is fixed as the date for carrying into effect:

1. The Franco-Belgian telephone agreement of October 29, 1898.
2. The measures enacted by the Royal Decree of March 30, 1900, given above.

The general telegraph management is charged with the execution of the present Decree, which is to be delivered to the audit office for verification.

JUL. LIEBAERT.

Brussels, March 31, 1900.

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BELGIUM—*Continued.*

(Translation.)

TELEPHONE SERVICE BETWEEN BELGIUM AND GREAT BRITAIN.

I.—AGREEMENT.

(Doc. IV., No. 495.)

His Majesty the King of the Belgians, and His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Possessions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, desiring to arrange the telephone service between Belgium and GREAT BRITAIN.

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and Great Britain, and exercising the authority accorded to them by Article 17, of the international telegraph agreement, signed at St. Petersburg, on July 22, 1875, have resolved to conclude a general agreement on this subject, and have appointed the following as their plenipotentiaries:—

For His Majesty the King of the Belgians: Baron De Favereau, Knight of the Order of Leopold, Senator, his Minister of Foreign Affairs.

For His Britannic Majesty: Sir Constantine Phipps, Knight Commander of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the King of the Belgians, who, having communicated their full powers, which have been found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following regulations:—

1. A telephone service shall be established and operated between Belgium and the United Kingdom by the telegraph managements of the two countries.

2. For this service a submarine cable shall be employed, containing four conductors (wires), which has to be laid, at the mutual expense of both managements, between the Belgian coast and the English coast, and also shore lines, which are to be constructed by each management at its own expense, within its own territory.

The diameter, the conductivity, and the insulation of the wires, must be suited to the requirements of the service. The wires must be arranged so as to preclude as much as possible the effects of induction, and are to be maintained in the best condition of service.

Each management will undertake, at its own expense, the work of maintaining the shore lines, within its own territory.

The English management will maintain the submarine cable, and the costs for this maintaining are to be equally borne by the two managements.

3. The circuits which have been specially constructed for the telephone service are to be exclusively employed for this purpose, unless it shall be otherwise decided by the two managements.

4. The telephone circuits are to be led into the central exchanges designated by the two managements, which are to make connections with the public call stations, or with the subscribers' stations connected with the service, as the case may be.

5. The unit of time specified for the duration of conversations, and for which charges are collected, is an indivisible period of three minutes. Not more than two consecutive conversations, consisting of three minutes each, are to be allowed between the same subscribers, when other requests for connections have been made, either before or during the said conversations.

6. Government communications are to receive the precedence accorded to government telegrams by the international agreement, signed at St. Petersburg on July 22, 1875. The duration of government communications is not limited as to the time taken up.

7. The unit of charge for each conversation of three minutes shall consist of the total sum of the following elementary charges:—

For the benefit of Belgium: Four francs 50 centimes (87 cents) for each conversation sent from or to a Belgian telephone centre.

For the benefit of the United Kingdom: Five francs 50 centimes (\$1.06) for each conversation sent from or to any telephone centre in England or the country of Wales, which can be connected with a Belgian telephone centre. The rates are to be paid by the person who requests the connections.

8. The two managements will mutually designate the telephone stations that are to be connected, the international circuits that are to be employed, and the hours during which the lines shall be open for service.

9. The receipts accruing from the telephone service are to be kept in a special account by each management, separate from those of the telegraph receipts.

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10. After mutual agreement, each of the managements shall be free to organize telephone service with another country, by means of the telephone lines of the other management.

11. Conversations may be exchanged during night hours at subscription rates. Each communication, at subscription rates, is to have a minimum duration equal to double the time allowed for a single conversation. The rates to be paid for the same are to be one-half of the charges that are specified in Article 7. The two managements will mutually fix the hours during which subscribers' conversations are to be carried on.

12. On the basis of *article 8* of the international agreement of St. Petersburg, each of the contracting parties reserves the right of suspending totally or partially, the telephone service, without being liable for any compensation.

13. The two managements are not in any way responsible for private communications sent over the telephone lines.

14. The terms of the present agreement are to be completed by rules of service, drawn up by mutual agreement, by the two managements.

15. The present agreement shall come into force on a date which is to be agreed upon by the two managements. After continuing in force for the space of one year, it may be revised at any time, at the request of one or other of the contracting parties.

In testimony of which the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present agreement, to which they have also affixed their seals.

Signed in duplicate at Brussels, on November 21, 1902.

P. De FAVEREAU.

CONSTANTINE PHIPPS.

II.—RULES OF SERVICE DRAWN UP IN PURSUANCE OF ARTICLE 14, OF THE ABOVE AGREEMENT.

Articles No. 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, and portions of Articles No. 6, 7, 8 and 15 have been omitted from this agreement, as they are identical with the 'regulations' governing the service between Belgium and France. (See page 594).

2. Official time, adopted for the telephone service between the two countries is that of the meridian of Greenwich.

3. The service is permanent in the central exchanges at Brussels and London. (2). The hours of service in the other central exchanges and in the public call stations are fixed by the two managements, each within its own territory, and each management supplies the other with information regarding these fixed hours.

6. The rates are collected by each management according to the rules specified for its telephone service, but only the charges for conversations actually held are included in the international accounts. (8). Any reduction in the charges has to be agreed upon by the two managements, each management relinquishing its own share of the charges. (10). Unless by the permission of the 'calling' exchange at the terminal of the line, no person using a subscriber's station, or a public call station, is allowed to have a second conversation until the charges for the first conversation have been paid.

7. Subscription agreements may be arranged for conversations during night hours, from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m. during the summer months, and from 9 p.m. until 8 a.m. during the winter months. The period of winter comprises the months of November, December, January and February. (11). The connections are made by the central exchange between the two stations requested, at the exact time mutually agreed upon, provided that the circuits are not already occupied. (12). The time allowed for conversation or any portion of the said time, which has not been used during the course of one night, cannot be carried over to another night. (13). If the time could not be used on account of some interruption in the service, if at all possible an opportunity is given to the subscriber to make this good, during the course of the same night.

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(14). If it has not been possible to give this opportunity to the subscriber, the said subscriber may, upon request, be reimbursed for the time which could not be utilized. Each unit of 3 minutes of conversations commenced is not taken into calculation, when the reimbursement is made. (15). The reimbursement is paid by the two managements, in proportion to their several shares in the receipts in such cases. (16). When a unit of conversation has terminated, a subscriber may continue to converse provided that no other request for the use of the circuit has been made, and said subscriber consents to pay the ordinary additional charge of 10 francs (\$1.93) for an indivisible unit of 3 minutes. (17). Requests for subscription agreements must be made, at least 8 days in advance, to the telegraph management at Brussels, or to the Postmaster General at London. These requests must specify the stations to be connected.

9. 'International' communications between Belgium and Great Britain, or *vice versa*, which are exchanged by means of the internal lines of these two countries, have the right of precedence over the said lines before 'national' communications which are exclusively within Belgian or English territory. However, in no case must a conversation be broken in upon that is being carried on. (3) The central exchange which receives a request for connections must see that such request is valid, and, especially, that the subscriber's station, or the public call station asked for, can be actually connected with the station calling. (4) If the request is valid, it is transmitted by 'phone as quickly as possible, from point to point, from the 'calling' to the 'called' exchanges on the Anglo-Belgian circuit, by means of all the central exchanges concerned. (5) Each central exchange transmits the requests to the exchange at the terminal of the international circuit, exclusively in the order in which they are received, no matter from where they are sent. (6). In cases where requests are withdrawn or cancelled, the notice is transmitted, according to the same conditions. (7). The requests for connections are made by giving the number, whenever this is possible. The responsibility for the exact number rests with the subscriber who sends in the call, or the person calling from a public call station, as the case may be, unless the number in question is not correctly given in the official directory of subscribers. (8). The Anglo-Belgian circuits are operated in alternate order, that is to say, each of the central exchanges at the terminals of the line, alternately call up each other. (9). The alternate order is followed, after each conversation. (10). The alternate order, however, applies only to conversations of the same rank. (11). Each connection is prepared while the preceding conversation is being carried on. The 'calling' exchanges connected with the international circuits have to make the necessary preparations for arranging for the connections. (12). The connections are made according to the order in which the requests are noted down in the said exchanges. (14). The connections are controlled by the 'calling' exchanges and 'called' exchanges of international circuits. The 'calling' exchanges have specially to control the duration of the conversations. The 'called' exchanges connected with the international circuits have to see that the conversations can be exchanged under satisfactory conditions.

15. In order to insure the most complete agreement in drawing up the accounts connected with the Anglo-Belgian telephone service, the central exchanges that control the service have to record each day the totals of the conversations sent and received, and enter the same at the end of the daily register of service. If these do not coincide then the differences have to be noted down, adding such observations as may be necessary for the guidance of the respective managements. (5). In the case of any disputes as to the duration of conversations, the managements have to refer to the entries kept at the 'calling exchanges.' (6). All the documents connected with the international telephone service have to be kept at least six months from the first day of the month following the date at which the said documents have reference.

16. The regulations of the international telegraph agreement, signed at St. Petersburg, on July 22, 1875, and the rules of service for carrying into effect the said

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agreement, apply in so far as they have any bearing on the matter, to the Anglo-Belgian telephone service, in so far as the same are not modified, in any way, by the Anglo-Belgian agreement, or by these rules of service.

Signed in duplicate:

At Brussels, on May 8, 1903.

At London, on May 23, 1903.

F. DELARGE,

AUSTIN CHAMBERLAIN,

Director General of the Telegraph Department of Belgium.

Postmaster General of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Minister of Railways, Post Offices and Telegraphs, having duly considered the agreement of November 21, 1902, relating to the organizing of the telephone service between Belgium and Great Britain, determines as follows:

The Anglo-Belgian telephone agreement of November 21, 1902, is to come into force on June 8, 1903. The general telegraph management is charged with the execution of the present decree, which is to be delivered at the audit office for verification.

JUL. LIEBAERT.

BRUSSELS, May 25, 1903.

BELGIUM—*Continued.*

No. 292g.

(Translation.)

AGREEMENT CONCERNING TELEPHONE SERVICE BETWEEN BELGIUM AND GERMANY.

(Doc. V., No. 285.)

The government of His Majesty the King of the Belgians, and the Imperial Government of Germany, desiring to establish a telephone service between Belgium and Germany, and using the authority accorded to them by Article 17, of the International telegraph agreement, signed at St. Petersburg, on July 22, 1875, have resolved to conclude an agreement on this subject, and have adopted the following regulations:—

1. A telephone service shall be organized and operated by the telegraph managements of Germany and Belgium, between the telephone systems or telephone groups of Aix-la-Chapelle and Cologne (on the Rhine), on the one part, and Verviers, Liege, Brussels and Antwerp, on the other part. The two managements shall be at liberty to extend, by mutual agreement, the telephone service between Germany and Belgium, to telephone systems, or telephone groups, other than those mentioned above.

2. The wire conductors to be employed in the said telephone service are to be installed and operated in accordance with the best conditions which in the experience of the service is possible.

These wires are to be so arranged as to avoid, as much as possible, the effects of induction and other perturbing influences.

Each of the two managements is to carry out, at its own expense, and within its own territory, the work of installing and maintaining the telephone lines.

3. The circuits specially constructed for the telephone service are to be employed exclusively for this purpose, unless it shall be otherwise decided by the two managements. The managements may, by mutual agreement, employ the lines that are at present used for telegraph service for the exchange of telephonic communications.

4. The telephone circuits are to be led in the central exchanges, which will make the necessary connections between the subscriber's stations, and the public call stations connected therewith.

5. The unit of time specified for the collection of rates, and for the duration of communications is 3 minutes.

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6. Not more than two consecutive conversations can be allowed between the same persons, unless no requests for connections have been made by other persons, either before or during the two conversations.

The use of the telephone, the order in which conversations are to be carried on, and the various regulations for the service, are to be mutually agreed upon by the two managements.

Government communications are not to be limited as to time.

7. The rates are collected for a conversation comprising a unit of 3 minutes' duration. This rule applies to all the subscribers' stations and public call stations belonging to the telephone system or telephone group, directly connected with the international line.

These rates are fixed, provisionally, as follows: For connections with Aix-la-Chapelle and Verviers; and with Aix-la-Chapelle and Liege, 1 franc 25 centimes, or 1 mark (24 cents). For connections with Cologne (on the Rhine) and Verviers, and with Cologne and Liege, Aix-la-Chapelle and Brussels, and Aix-la-Chapelle and Antwerp, 2 francs, or 1 mark 50 pf. (36 cents) for connections with Cologne (on the Rhine), and Brussels; and Cologne and Antwerp, 2 francs 50 centimes, or 2 marks (48 cents).

The two managements may, by common agreement, modify this tariff, and fix the rates to be charged for any new connections that may be subsequently opened up in the international service.

(The foregoing rates have been superseded by a decree dated December 3, 1901. See page 604).

8. The receipts for the service, between Germany and Belgium are to be equally divided, for connections between Aix-la-Chapelle and Verviers, Aix-la-Chapelle and Liege, Cologne (on the Rhine) and Brussels, Cologne and Antwerp. The German management will receive 59 pfennigs, or 62½ centimes for each conversation for the service between Aix-la-Chapelle and Brussels, and Aix-la-Chapelle and Antwerp, and 1 mark, or 1 franc 25 centimes for the service between Cologne (on the Rhine) and Verviers, and Cologne and Liege.

9. The rates have to be paid by the person who asks for the connections. Each management will take steps to collect the rates, according to the manner that it may consider most convenient. The receipts accruing from the international telephone service are to be kept in a special account by each management, and separate from the receipts collected for the telegraph service.

10. Each of the two contracting parties reserves the right to suspend totally or in part, for reasons of public order (peace), without being held liable for any compensation.

11. The two managements are not responsible in any sense, for any private communications that may be sent over the lines.

12. The terms of the present agreement are to be completed by rules of service, which may be changed at any time by common agreement between the telegraph managements of the two countries.

The present agreement is to be put in force, on a date to be fixed by the telegraph managements of the two countries. The said agreement shall remain in operation for three months after it has been rescinded, which may be done at any time, by one or other of the contracting parties.

In testimony of which, the undersigned, who have received due authority to this effect, have signed the present agreement, to which they have also affixed their seals.

Signed in duplicate at Berlin, on August 28, 1895.

S. REINDL.

BARON VON MARSCHALL.

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RULES OF SERVICE ADOPTED, IN PURSUANCE OF ARTICLES 6 AND 12, OF THE FOREGOING AGREEMENT.

(Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 have been omitted from this agreement, as they are the same as those given for service between Belgium and France. (See page 594).)

5. The rates are collected by each management, in conformity with the rules that apply to its telephone service. Consequently the Belgian management makes no charge for any request for conversation which is not followed by connections being made with the stations asked for. The German management charges for a single conversation, as soon as the request for connections has been transmitted to the central station concerned. The amounts collected in such cases belong exclusively to the German management. On the other hand, the German management waives its claim to that share of the rates resulting from requests for connections which are not charged for by the Belgian management.

9. No station may suspend or close the service, at the specified hours, as long as any conversations are being carried on. Within the limits fixed, in the next paragraph conversations are allowed to be completed which have been requested before the hour of closing the service, and which have not been held up to that time.

Unless a special order shall be issued by common agreement of both managements, no telephone bureau shall be kept open longer than 30 minutes to enable conversations requested before the hour of the closing of the service to be completed.

13. The telephone exchanges have to note down the communications effected with the foreign exchanges, the charges collected for these communications, and also all the details necessary for drawing up the international accounts. The daily results of these entries form the basis for these accounts, which are made up monthly, and are exchanged between the post office management at Cologne (on the Rhine), and the telegraph management of Brussels, according to the same manner that the telegraph accounts are handled. The general abstracts of the numbers of conversations are admitted, when the difference in the totals, drawn up by the aforesaid managements, does not exceed one per cent of the amounts rendered by the telephone management who sends in the accounts. When the difference amounts to more than one per cent, then the accounts have to be revised. After verifying the general abstracts, or statements, the quarterly clearance between the two telephone managements is made by the foreign bureau, No. 11, of the government Post Office Department, Berlin.

Approved at Berlin, October 8, 1895. At Brussels, October 11, 1895.

SCHEFFLER,

*Post Office Department, Division II., of
the Imperial German Empire.*

F. DELARGE,

*Director General of the
Telegraph Dept. of Belgium.*

THE GERMANO-BELGIAN TELEPHONE SERVICE RATES.

Leopold II., King of the Belgians.

To all to whom these presents shall come, *Greeting:*

Whereas Article 2 of the Law of June 11, 1883, extends to the telephone service, the provisions specified in the Law of March 1, 1851, and

Whereas the Law of December 30, 1899, continues the Law of March 1, 1851; and

Whereas a telephone agreement was concluded on August 23, 1895, between Belgium and Germany, and particularly *Article 7* thereof, and

Whereas the various royal decrees concerning the rates to be applied to certain connections in the telephone service between Belgium and Germany have been revised,

Therefore, on the proposal of our Minister of Railways, Post Offices and Telegraphs, we have decreed and do decree as follows:—

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1. From the first of January, 1902, the telephone rates between Belgium and Germany shall be fixed as specified hereafter.

The amounts of rates for an ordinary communication to comprise the sum total of the elementary rates, fixed as follows, for a conversation of 3 minutes:—

In Belgium.

At sixty-two and a half centimes (Fr. 0.625), for communications sent from or to the telephone groups of Liege and Verviers.—Zone 1.

At one franc, twenty-five centimes (Fr. 1.25), for communications sent from or to the other Belgian telephone groups.—Zone 2.

In Germany.

At sixty-two and a half centimes (Fr. 0.625), for communications sent from or to the telephone systems comprised within the territory of the general postal management of Aix-la-Chapelle.—Zone 1.

At one franc, twenty-five centimes (Fr. 1.25), for communications sent from or to the telephone systems comprised within the territory of the general postal management of Cologne (on the Rhine) and Dusseldorf.—Zone 2.

At two francs, twenty-five centimes (Fr. 2.25), for communications sent from or to the telephone systems not included within the two first zones.—Zone 3.

The total rates apply to communications sent from Belgium, and which are exchanged between:—

- (1) The telephone systems within the 2nd Belgian zone, and the systems within the 2nd German zone.
- (2) The telephone systems within the 2nd Belgian zone and the systems within the 1st German zone.
- (3) The telephone systems within the 1st Belgian zone, and those of the 3rd German zone. These rates are, 2 francs (two fr.) for the first two divisions, classified above; and 3 francs (three fr.) for the third division.

Each management shall pay over to the other management that portion of the rates belonging to the zone of the latter.

2. Urgent communications sent over the Germano-Belgian international telephone lines, have to pay three times the amount of the ordinary specified rates.

Our Minister of Railways, Post Offices and Telegraphs is charged with the execution of the present decree.

Given at Brussels, on December 9, 1901.

LEOPOLD.

For the King,

JUL. LIEBAERT,

Minister of Railways, Post Offices and Telegraphs.

No. 292h.

(Translation.)

BELGIUM.—Continued.

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL THE SYSTEMS OF THE COUNTRY.

(Doc. VI., page 8.)

9. If the person to be called up is connected to another exchange of the same group as that to which the 'calling' subscriber is connected, the name of the exchange with which the 'called' subscriber is connected must be given to the central exchange, instead of the subscriber's number. The 'calling subscriber must keep the 'phone to

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his ear until a response is received from the exchange asked for, when he will give the number of the called subscriber's station and wait for his reply.

11. For long-distance conversations, within Belgium, follow the instructions given in section 9.

12. In international service, the connection is requested by giving the number of the subscriber wanted, as in service within Belgium.

13. When two persons have finished conversing they must hang the receiver on the hook, with the ear piece downwards, and turn the crank several times as a signal to the central exchange to break the connection. In the various systems of Brussels and Ghent, the signal to break the connection is given by merely placing the receiver on the hook. Any delay in ringing off, renders the subscriber liable to pay for an additional unit of time, if the conversation is one charged for a period not exceeding one unit. If the receiver is not placed on the hook it is impossible to call the exchange, or to be called. Moreover the battery becomes exhausted, and puts the instrument out of order. Omitting to replace the receiver in its suspension hook, with the earpiece downwards, may derange the telephone arrangements. Any damage arising from neglect to follow these instructions has to be made good by the subscriber.

BELGIUM—*Continued.*

No. 292i.

(Translation.)

LONG-DISTANCE SERVICE.

(Doc. I., p. 22.)

35. The only interurban and international connections in the telephone service available for the general public, are those which having been found practicable, are regularly open for traffic.

(2) This limitation does not apply to communications relating to the service.

Every communication of this class has to be sent, when requested by a duly authorized official, no matter what connections may be required.

(3) However, when connections relating to the service are requested from subscribers' stations in the neighbouring (foreign) country, the Belgian central exchanges are only authorized to comply with such requests within the limits of the service that is regularly open to the general public.

(4) In all other cases, unless special instructions are given by the central management, or the technical directors, the central exchanges merely inform the person calling up in the neighbouring (foreign) country, that the regulations do not allow the connections to be made.

(5) In cases of insistence, the central exchanges offer to connect the applicant with the manager of the technical department for the district concerned.

(6) The central exchanges in question, note down, in their service registers, any requests of this kind that are made, and the replies that have been given to the same.

36. The duration of conversations between subscribers' stations connected to the same central exchange is not limited.

(2) In the case of free conversations from a public call station, or conversations between subscribers' stations connected to different central exchanges but belonging to the same group, conversations must not exceed five minutes if the line is required for other connections. The period begins at the moment the lines are placed at the disposal of the applicant. The subscriber may be reconnected after the requests awaiting connections have been completed.

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(3) In the case of connections for which charges are made, the period of time begins simultaneously with the liability to pay the charges. Such connections cannot be continued after double the time allowed for one unit of conversation has elapsed, unless no other requests for conversation are awaiting completion. If such other requests have been received the reconnection is made in its proper order with these requests. In any case the ordinary specified rates must be paid just as if a different subscriber had been asked for. In order to facilitate the service with Germany, the persons asking for connections must be requested to state whether they wish a connection for a period of one or two units of conversation. However, the omission of this declaration does not prevent the person conversing from obtaining a second period of three minutes, if the first is not sufficient.

(4) Government communications are not limited as to time.

37. In the case of connections made with a subscriber's station, for which charges are collected, the liability to pay begins as soon as the connections have been made between the two stations. The charge is due from that moment for the intervening time up to the 'ring-off' signal being given.

(2) In the case of conversations held with a person present in a public call station, the charges apply as soon as this station is connected with the 'calling' subscriber; or if the case occur after the lapse of three minutes, which is allowed for the call, in the case of connection made with a public call station.

(3) In view of the foregoing, only the following connections are exempted from payment:—

(a) Connections which could not be carried out on account of some defect in the line, or instruments. Conversations are charged for, however, when they have been effected with the assistance of the operators in the central exchanges or in the public call stations, notwithstanding the existing defects. Any demand for exemption of charges must be made at once, or it will not be considered. If the persons conversing are unable to understand each other, then the terminal central exchange intervenes, and tests the connection with the 'calling' subscriber's station. Afterwards, the 'calling' central exchange makes the same test with the 'called' subscriber's station. If the connection is all right from both ends, the complaint cannot be considered. The operators note down the complaint, in the service registers, with the results of their tests. The same procedure is followed in cases where difficulty arises by reason of persons not understanding how to use the apparatus. Intermediate central exchanges must intervene when required in cases of difficulty in the same way as the 'calling' and terminal central exchanges.

(b) Conversations which could not be carried out by reason of the 'called' subscriber not responding. When a response is received from the 'called' station and the arrangements are in good order, the connection must be charged for. The operators do not ascertain whether the person responding to the call is able to furnish the information desired by the 'calling' subscriber. When the person wanted is absent, the person calling may instruct the person responding to transmit his communication to the person wanted. If he does not give these instructions, he is nevertheless held liable to pay the charges; for the management in making the connections is considered to have furnished means necessary to obtain the service required.

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- (4) The charges are also payable when the connection is not carried out, by reason of the inability of the persons concerned to use the telephone. In such cases the operators ought to offer their assistance, and if possible, inform the person calling that the charges are due.
- (5) Some persons in order to exempt themselves from payment of the charges think that they can ask the terminal central exchange to ascertain if the person wanted is at the 'phone, before asking to be connected with the subscriber's station. The central exchanges are not authorized to supply this information. Their sole duty is to make the connections between the subscriber's stations and see that the service regulations are enforced. It is only in exceptional cases that they have to intervene in a more direct manner. Example: A person has paid the charge for a connection which has not had the desired result, on account of the absence of the person exclusively desired. The terminal central station can offer to inform the person calling when the subscriber asked for is on hand; in order to give the said person an opportunity to request a new connection, for which, of course, he must pay the charges.
- (6) As a general rule, the charges, are due by the person calling. However if a subscriber requests to be put in connection with a non-subscriber present at a public call station of the same telephone system or local group, the charge is to be collected from the non-subscriber, unless the 'calling' subscriber has paid a deposit and instructs the operator at the public call station to charge the connection to him. In this last case, the connection is treated as if it had been made from the calling subscriber's station, and is entered, with an explanatory remark in Register G, 58 of the responsible central exchange of the telephone system or group from which the call is sent.

(For long-distance rates see pp. 586-590.)

No. 292j.

(Translation.)

BELGIUM.—*Continued.*

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

a. IN INTERURBAN SERVICE.

(Doc. II., Sup. 22.)

1. The reduced subscription rates established by the Royal decree of June 23, 1890, apply to the long-distance telephone service, within Belgium, between two specified telephone systems or groups, carried on by the use of the wires and apparatus of these systems or groups. A separate subscription agreement must be signed by each person who uses the telephone service at the said rates. The time allowed for each conversation is 5 minutes; but the telegraph management reserves the right to reduce this period, either for the whole service or during a certain part of the day or night, or only in the case of certain connections without making any reduction in the subscription rates.

2. The rates are to be paid in advance to the central exchange responsible for keeping the accounts, in the local telephone systems where the subscribers reside, unless the subscriber has requested that the rates be collected at his own expense by mail from his residence. The rates will also be collected at the subscriber's expense by mail, if the same has not been paid within three days from the date when notice to make payment was given.

3. Long-distance connections are made according to the order of request at the time required by the subscriber, without any previous agreement with the management being necessary.

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4. Each request for a long-distance connection must be given from the residence or other establishment of the subscriber, or from a public telephone call station belonging to the local telephone system, or group of systems. The subscriber may use the full time allowed daily in one conversation with the same person, in single units or in multiples of consecutive units of conversation with the same person, or with different persons of the terminal telephone system or group. However, the connections will not be continued after the expiration of two consecutive units if another person has made request for connections.

5. The first conversations of each day are considered as being exchanged under the subscription terms.

6. The daily time specified for conversation at the subscription rates is, at least, double the unit of time allowed for ordinary conversations, viz., 10 minutes. The subscription agreement is for one month, and is prolonged from month to month by tacit understanding. The agreement may be cancelled, on either side, by proper notification being given, fifteen days in advance, by registered letter. The monthly period of subscription begins on the 1st or the 16th of each month, or is brought back to one of these dates. However, the privilege of the reduction of rates may be allowed to begin on any date.

7. The units of time allowed daily for subscribers' conversations cannot be carried over from one day to another. In case of any derangement in the service, no reduction in the rates is allowed for an interruption lasting for twenty-four hours or less. Should the time exceed twenty-four hours, the subscriber, upon request, will be reimbursed for each additional period of twenty-four consecutive hours, during the continuance of the interruption, by receiving one-thirtieth of the amount of subscription rates. The duration of the 24 hours is reckoned from minute to minute.

8. The amount of subscription rates is indivisible. The combination of a number of persons to pay the same is strictly forbidden. The conversations must have exclusive reference to the personal or business concerns of the subscriber. Any contravention of the regulations given in the present article, will involve the cancelling of the subscription, without refunding the rates, and without prejudice to any legal proceedings on the part of the management, should this be expedient.

(Article 3, of the law, of June 11, 1883:—'Any person who, without being supplied with a regular concession, operates a telegraph or telephone line for the purpose of collecting rates, is punished with a fine of from 100 to 500 francs.')

9. In case of non-payment, the management may, three days after making a legal demand for payment, sent by registered letter to the subscriber, without result, suspend, without further notice, the daily periods of time allowed for conversation, until full payment has been made.

The management is also at liberty either to cancel the subscription by sending a notification by registered letter, or to take legal steps to recover the amount due.

10. The management reserves the right, at all times, without the subscriber having any claim for indemnity or compensation:—

- (a) Of refusing or forbidding conversations at subscription rates during certain hours of the day or night.
- (b) Of suspending altogether the telephone service, for reasons of public order.

11. The government is not subject to any responsibility for private communications sent over the telephone line.

12. The cost of stamps used in connection with subscription documents is to be borne by the subscribers. The same rule applies to any expenses accruing from having such documents registered.

13. Each subscription agreement is drawn up in duplicate, one copy of which is kept by the subscriber.

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CONDITIONS OF SUBSCRIPTION—*Continued.*

b. IN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE.

(Regulations which are the same as those in interurban service are omitted here.)

(Doc. II., Sup. 23.)

1. The rates for subscribers' conversations in international service are fixed for daily periods of time, the duration of which is specified by mutual agreement between the two managements concerned.

2. Subscribers' connections are made at fixed hours. These hours are mutually agreed upon between the subscriber and the management.

3. Each request for connections must be made either from the residence or other establishment of the subscriber, or from a public call station of the telephone system or group, by which the residence of the subscriber is served. The management may, however, at the express request of the subscriber, and after agreement with the other management concerned, authorize the subscribers' correspondent to call up the said subscriber under the subscription terms.

4. In the service between Belgium and Luxemburg the monthly periods of subscription may begin on any date.

8. Connections are made for subscribers, at the exact time that has been mutually agreed upon, unless another conversation is being already carried on between two other persons. Any minutes allowed for one conversation and not used cannot be carried over to another conversation. If, however, the non-utilization of the time is due to some interruption in the service, an opportunity to make this good is given, if possible, to the subscriber, during the course of the day's service—minute for minute.

CONDITIONS OF SUBSCRIPTION—*Continued.*

c. IN LONG-DISTANCE SERVICE WITHIN AND BEYOND BELGIUM.

(8) Subscription agreements in long-distance service within and without Belgium are contracted for one month at least, and the agreement is continued from month to month, by tacit understanding.

(9) The agreement can be cancelled by either of the contracting parties, provided that 15 days' notice in advance is given, by registered letter. In the service between Belgium and France and Belgium and England, eight days' notice must be given.

(13) At Paris, subscribers' conversations are only exchanged with subscribers' stations, and the public call stations in the stock exchange.

(14) In the telephone service between Brussels and Paris, and between Belgium and Holland, no subscribers' conversations are allowed during the hours when the stock exchange is open, *i.e.*, from 8.51 a.m., until 4.51 p.m. (Greenwich time) between Belgium and Paris, and from 11.21 a.m. until 3.21 p.m. (Greenwich time) between Belgium and Holland.

(15) In the service between Belgium and places in France, outside Paris and between Belgium and England, subscribers' conversations are only allowed during night hours, and then only to such an extent as will not impede the ordinary service.

(21) Any non-subscriber in a telephone system or group, may take out a subscription agreement for the purpose of exchanging conversations from all the public call stations of a specified telephone system or group, with all the subscribers and public call stations of some other telephone systems or group.

(22) Each subscription agreement is only valid for the exchange of conversations between two specified telephone systems or groups, and a separate special subscription agreement is required for service between every two systems or groups.

(23) The subscription agreement is only granted for at least two daily units of conversation.

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(25) Non-subscribers in a local telephone system or group who contract subscription agreements for long-distance connections are only allowed to exchange conversations from the public call stations of the telephone system or group specified in the agreement. The agreement gives no right to converse from any other station. Accordingly, a person residing in Antwerp, for example, may contract a subscription agreement giving him the right to converse from all the public call stations of the Brussels telephone group, with the subscribers and public call stations of the Liege telephone group, but the agreement does not give him the right to converse from the subscribers' stations of the Brussels telephone group, or from the public call stations of the telephone groups of Liege or Antwerp.

(27) The ordinary rates must be paid for all conversations carried on after the daily period of time allowed in the subscription agreements has been utilized.

(30) Subscription contracts are not allowed in the service between Belgium and Germany.

Special Regulations.

(Doc. VI., p. 16).

(1) The charges for interurban and international long-distance service are the same whether the conversations are exchanged with subscribers' stations in the local telephone systems, or public call stations. No extra charge is required from non-subscribers.

(2) Connections are made according to the order in which calls are received; precedence is, however, given to officials and authorities despatching state telegrams, and to urgent private conversations in the service between Belgium and Germany.

(3) The time occupied in making subscribers' connections is one minute during day service (two minutes in international service), and five minutes during night hours (in long-distance service within and without Belgium).

(4) The charge is calculated from the moment that connections are made between the two stations, until the signal is given to break the connection. See Article 13, page 587. Consequently no charges are paid for:—

(a) Connections which cannot be carried out on account of derangement of the line or in the station. When, however, such derangements occur, the person conversing may ask the operators in the telephone bureaux to repeat the conversation. If this is successful the charge must be paid.

(b) Conversations which cannot be carried on because the station called up does not respond.

(7) The person who has called for the connection must pay the charges.

CONDITIONS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.—*Continued.**d. IN LOCAL SERVICE.*

(Doc. II., Sup. 19).

1. The subscriber receives a copy of the subscription agreement, which he has to sign, along with a copy of the general conditions of subscription.

2. The management concedes to the subscriber, on condition of payment, the use of the telephone apparatus specified on the other side (i.e., on the back of the subscription agreement, where these specifications are stated), and the use of a line connecting the said apparatus to the telephone system for the purpose of exchanging conversations within the limits of the local telephone system or group. The line and the apparatus are installed by the telegraph management, and remain the property of the government. The subscription is limited to one person. It is indivisible.

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3. The subscriptions are half yearly, yearly, or, in certain cases, they are contracted for a longer period of time. The half yearly subscriptions are granted on condition of an agreement for at least three half yearly periods, during three consecutive years (i.e., six months in each year for three years).

4. The subscriber has to obtain the consent of the proprietor of his residence, for the placing of supports for the fixing and leading in of the wires, and also for the installing of the apparatus. The subscriber is also responsible for any repairs, etc., which may be involved by the installing or removing of the telephone arrangements.

5. The wire and instruments are installed at the subscriber's residence and remain at his own risk and hazard. The government (state) will not assume any responsibility for any direct or indirect damage that may be occasioned by these installations.

6. The subscriber is responsible for all parts of the telephone station placed at his disposal. In cases of deterioration, loss, partial or entire, demolition, putting out of working order, etc., either through carelessness on the part of the subscriber, or through some accident, the subscriber will have to make the same good to the management without having the right to claim possession of the materials that have been destroyed, damaged, put out of working order, or lost.

7. The cost of the work required in locating defects in the installations connected with a subscriber's station are charged to the subscriber when the said defects are caused by any negligence or mistake at the subscriber's station.

8. The subscriber must give permission to the employees of the management connected with the telephone service, and who present their credentials, to have access at reasonable hours, to the places where the wires and the materials connected with the station are installed.

9. The management reserves the right to change the subscriber's calling number when the necessities of the service so require. The management has always the exclusive right to change, shift, or remove the installations used by the subscriber, according to the necessities and circumstances of the service.

10. The subscriber has to bear the cost of moving the arrangements, and of all other changes carried out at his request, within the same premises or within some other premises.

11. Change of residence need not involve the cancelling of the subscription unless this is done by the consent of the management. The costs of connecting the new residence to the same telephone system or group is borne by the management.

12. Should the telephone service become unnecessary to the subscriber he may be permitted by the management to have the subscription taken over by another person or firm, on condition that the station or stations have not to be transferred to some other premises. In this case the first subscriber becomes responsible for all sums due up to the time of the transfer, as well as all amounts due for the period that the subscription has to run, from the time that the transfer was made.

13. A subscription contracted for one year cannot be cancelled under any circumstances. However, an annual agreement, renewed without interruption, may, by the consent of the management, be cancelled at any time during the course of the first half year of the subscription, provided that the subscriber pays an amount equal to that required for three months' subscription, in addition to the rates for the current quarter, which have always to be paid to the government. In this case the station is removed not later than the end of the said quarter. When a subscription, that is renewed annually, is cancelled during the course of the second half year, no reduction will be made in the subscription rates.

14. The management will not permit the premature cancelling of a half-yearly subscription except at the termination of the first half year, and then only on payment of an indemnity equal to the difference between the amount of an annual subscription and half-yearly one.

15. A subscription contracted for several years may, by consent of the management, be cancelled at the end of the first yearly period, on condition that the sub-

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scriber pays to the management, besides the amount due, an indemnity equal to the difference between an annual subscription and the annual amount of rates entered in his agreement. This applies both for the yearly term of subscription running, and also for any previous years of subscription. The regulations given in Article 13 relating to annual subscriptions renewed with interruption, apply also in this case. According to the preceding conditions, a subscription for several years, renewed without interruption may, by the consent of the management, be cancelled from the beginning of the first year of the renewed period.

16. If, in consequence of the changes of residences, referred to in Articles 10 and 11, the rates are increased, the additional sum is due from the day that the said change or transfer takes place. Should the change involve a decrease in the rates, the said decrease will not come into effect until the commencement of the following year.

17. In the event of the decease of the subscriber, the subscription agreement remains in force, and the amount of rates must be paid in full, by his heirs or assigns, who are jointly responsible for carrying out the said agreement.

18. The subscriber is expressly forbidden:—

- (1) To connect to the apparatus placed at his disposal, any other wires, apparatus, instrument, or any kind of attachment, to open, remove, or take apart the instrument, accessories and wire conductors; to change the equipment, in any way whatever; or to employ the arrangements for any other purpose than that which is specified in the present agreement.
- (2) To collect, directly or indirectly, any charge or toll from any other person using the subscriber's telephone.*

19. The subscriber must conform strictly to the laws, decrees, instructions and regulations, issued by the government, relating to the operation of the telephone system, and the regular carrying on of the telephone service.

20. The subscription agreement begins on the day when the subscriber's telephone arrangements are completed for service with the telephone system.

21. The amount of rates are due for the whole period of time specified in the agreement, whatever circumstances may supervene to involve the premature cancelling of the same, those conditions excepted which are specified in the foregoing Articles 13, 14 and 15. The rates are to be paid in advance at the beginning of each yearly or half-yearly term, according to whether the subscription may be for six months, one year, or longer. The management may, at its own option, collect the annual rates in two equal sums, at the commencement of each half-year, without this privilege being considered as a departure from the right of the management to require payment in advance for the full annual period.

The rates are paid to the central exchange of the local telephone system responsible for keeping the accounts, unless the subscriber has requested that the amount is to be collected at his residence by mail at his expense. The amount due may be collected, by right, through the mail, at the subscriber's expense, if the same is not paid within three days after notification has been sent that payment must be made. The same rule applies to the expenses connected with amounts due by the subscriber, in pursuance of Articles 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 30.

22. All payments regularly made by the subscribers are the property of the state (government), subject to (or under the limitations of) the application of Articles 13, 15, 25 (last paragraph), and Article 30 (last paragraph).

23. In cases of non-payment, the management is entitled to suspend the use of the telephone without further notice, until full payment has been made. This step can be taken forty-eight hours after legal notice has been sent by registered letter to the subscriber, without payment having been made. All sums due must be paid in full. The

* (Article 3 of the Law of June 11, 1883 :—'Any person who, without being supplied with a regular concession (warrant), operates, for the purpose of collecting rates, a telegraph or a telephone line, shall be punished with a fine of from one hundred to five hundred francs.')

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management has also the right, as it may see fit, either to cancel the agreement by a simple notification to that effect, or to proceed to legal measures. When the management decides to cancel the agreement, it reserves the right, under all conditions, to demand payment of all sums due (even sums due in advance) without any deduction for damages.

24. The management undertakes at its own expense the maintaining of the subscriber's circuit, stations and connections, in so far as this may become necessary through the regular use, and ordinary wear and tear, of the same. Copies of the telephone directory are sent free by mail to the subscribers, each subscriber receiving one copy.

25. No compensation is due by the management for any period of delay that may be occasioned in the service from the subscribers' station, either when the arrangements are first being installed or when any addition is being made to the arrangements, or when the subscriber changes his residence. The same rule applies in cases of interruption in the service in consequence of broken wires, contacts (crosses), the breaking down of poles or supports, displacement of the lines, derangement of the phone or any other material cause, if the said interruption does not continue longer than one month from the time that notice has been given by the subscriber by registered letter. If this period is exceeded, and if the subscriber is not otherwise himself at fault, the management will reimburse the subscriber with a sum equal to the amount of subscription rates for the period of delay, from the end of this term of one month until connections are again established.

26. The suspension of the telephone service either wholly or partly, by the government, for reasons of public order, does not absolve the subscriber from the payment of his subscription rates, nor give him any right to demand compensation from the government.

27. The subscribers' conversations with other subscribers by means of a public call station of the local telephone system or group, and within the limits of the said system or group, are exempted from any charges. These conversations are carried on, during the ordinary course of the service on presentation of a card furnished by the management, and by complying with the special conditions provided for this service. The subscription agreement confers the right to receive a free card, bearing the subscriber's name, and an additional free card bearing the name of some person connected with his establishment (i.e., family or business). At the request and written attestation of the subscribers, the management will furnish to their partners, agents or employees, subscription cards at the *annual* rate of 20 francs (\$3.86) for the first card, and 10 francs (\$1.93) for each of the following cards. These cards are to be used under the conditions specified above. In the case of subscription cards, valid for six months, the rates are 14 francs (\$2.70) for the first card and 7 francs (\$1.35) for each of the following cards. All cards are strictly personal. They are not to be given away, or lent, on penalty of being withdrawn. Under all circumstances the price of these cards remains the property of the government, apart from any damages that the government may lay claim to. The validity of these cards expires simultaneously with the period for which the rental for the subscriber's telephone has been paid. Cards lost or destroyed will not be replaced before the termination of their term of validity unless the subscriber makes a payment of two francs (39 cents).

28. When the subscriber's telephone is used in conformity with the decrees and regulations for conversations, for which extra charges have to be paid, the subscriber is responsible to the management for the amounts due for all such conversations sent from his station, unless he has declined this responsibility by making a declaration that he has no intention of using the privilege accorded to him. This declaration must be sent to the manager of the local telephone system, who will acknowledge receipt of same.

29. The government is not responsible in any way for any communications of a private nature that may be sent over the lines.

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30. The subscription agreement is renewed by tacit understanding for a period of the same duration, unless notice of withdrawal has been given to the management by registered letter addressed to the manager of the local system, at least four weeks before the agreement expires, or unless the management has given notification within the same period of time that it is opposed to the renewal of the agreement. If this notification has not been duly given, the subscriber may, up to the time that the present agreement expires, receive permission to cancel the renewal of his agreement, on condition that he pays by way of compensation, a sum equal to one quarter's rates.

31. In order to carry out the terms of his agreement, the subscriber must declare his intention to reside in the locality where the central exchange to which his residence is connected is located.

32. The cost of the stamps used in connection with the agreement and its supplements has to be borne by the subscriber. The same rule applies to any costs accruing from the registration of these documents.

(Doc. I., p. 95.)

104. In the case of half-yearly subscriptions, viz., agreements which are contracted for three periods of six months each, the first period begins when the connections are made with the telephone system. The second and third periods commence on the same date in each following year. However, the initial dates of the second and third periods may be changed at the request of the subscriber, but the date of the termination of the agreement must not extend beyond the total period of three full years, from the date when the connections were first made.

- (2) At the request of the subscribers, the telephone equipment used during the half-yearly periods, may remain where they have been installed, during the intervals between each half-yearly period of subscription. In this event the subscriber must declare himself responsible for the station and its accessories, during each of the said intervals, just as if the station and its accessories were in regular service with the central exchange. The half-yearly subscription agreements should be completed, when necessary, by having the following clause inserted in the blank space following the service form, series G, 118:—

‘During the intervals between the half-yearly periods that the station is in use, and at the subscriber's request, the management will allow the station and accessories, that are signed for in the present agreement, to remain where they have been installed.’ ‘According to the extension of Article 6, of the “General Conditions of Subscription,” the subscriber remains responsible for the station and accessories, during each of these intervals, just as if the station, &c., were in use.’

A corresponding declaration, drawn up on unstamped paper, is required, in such cases, from the subscriber, who signs the half-yearly agreement. The manager of the telephone system must see that the connection with the central exchange is broken at the close of each half-yearly service.

- (3) The manager of the telephone system has to remove, after each period of service, the telephone equipment of the half-yearly subscribers, who have not signed the declaration specified in the preceding paragraph. A special order must be issued on each occasion when the telephone equipment is removed or re-installed. When the subscriber's equipment is removed temporarily, the workmen must be instructed to see that the wires are carefully grounded, either by closing the circuit, or by a binding wire. Connections must be made outside the premises whenever possible.

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- (4.) Whenever a half-yearly period of subscription is renewed, the manager of the telephone system must see that the rates are collected as early as possible.
- (5) Half-yearly periods of subscription in connection with one or several telephone systems, may be granted to the same subscriber, for the purpose of giving continuous service to different premises. As an exception to the rule by which half-yearly agreements can neither be prolonged nor shortened, two subscription periods, which have to be completed in successive order, may be adjusted, so that the period for each of the premises may be shortened or prolonged. However, the date at which these double contracts terminate, must not run beyond three full years, counting from the date when connections were first made, and the total number of changes made must not entail more than three installations of equipment in each of the said premises, including the first. The subscriber must be informed that each request for reinstallation of the station is to be made within a specified time. Any prolongation or shortening of the periods of service, does not affect the amount of rates due by the subscriber. These rates are collected regularly at the commencement of each half year. The managers of the telephone system concerned must arrange that the total period of service for the two subscription agreements does not exceed the limit of three full years, specified in the present paragraph.

105. Subscription agreements (supplementary stations and accessories included), requested for the service of the state, provinces and communes, are subject to a reduction of 35 per cent on the ordinary rates, on condition that in consideration of this, means present or future compensation, the telegraph management obtains the right of occupation for the poles, supports, &c., set up on the property or buildings, required for the service in question.

- (2) The aforesaid reduction of 35 per cent is applicable, under the same conditions, to the subscription agreements contracted by the following administrations:—
 - (a) The national company of municipal railways.
 - (b) The official (government) benevolent societies.
 - (c) The benevolent societies operated (subsidized by the state, the provinces, and the communes.
 - (d) The independent government administration of the Congo.
 - (e) The general bank of savings and annuities (pensions).
- (3) The granting of the reduction of 35 per cent is contingent upon an agreement between the central telegraph management and the administration requesting the subscription. The manager of the telephone system forwards to the technical management, without further preliminaries, the requests for subscription presented by these administrations.
- (4) When the agreement has been concluded, the central management notifies the manager of the telephone system concerned. The manager, from that time, attends to all the requests for subscription, made by the administration in question, without further intervention on the part of the technical management.
- (7) Agreements contracted for the communes must be signed by the Burgomaster, and countersigned by the secretary, according to Article 101 of the law relating to communes. Subscription agreements for the governments of the provinces must be signed by the Department of the Interior, and of Public Instruction when the rates are paid from the state treasury, as is the case when the telephones are installed in the offices or residences of the governors, recorders (registrars) of the provinces, and district com-

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missioners. These agreements are contracted by the provincial government, represented by the governor, when the rates are paid from the treasury of the province, as in the case of the Courts of Commerce, the Record Office of the Courts of Commerce, the residences of the presidents and recorders of the said courts, the schools and institutes of the provinces, the residences of the provincial officials, viz., inspectors, road trustees, engineers of roads, &c.

- (8) The manager of the telephone system must get into direct communication with the administration making the request, in order to conclude the agreement. When so doing, the manager of the telephone system must see how many blank service forms are required by the administration in question, for completing the copies of the agreement, which are necessary for its own use. These blank service forms are delivered, free of charge, at the same time that the copy of the subscriber's agreement (contract) is sent.
- (9) The subscription rates do not have to be paid in advance, when the subscription agreement is contracted for the service of the state, the provinces, the communes, or by any of the administrations or institutions connected with these services.
- (10) According to Article 23 of the 'General Conditions of Subscription,' contracted by the administrations belonging to the Department of Railways, Post Office and Telegraphs' (see supplement 20), the renewal of accessory apparatus, or of supplementary stations, requires the reimbursement of that portion of the rates which has not been paid to the telegraph management (exception to Article 90, paragraph 1),
- (11) The contracts mentioned in Article 91, paragraph 1, and the charges specified in Article 101, paragraph 3, are not required, in advance, in the case of installations for the service of the administrations of the state, the provinces, the communes, and those institutions (establishments) whose budgets and annual accounts have to be submitted to the authorities of the provinces and communes.

122. Requests for subscription agreements, in international service, and in connection with the service in railway stations, are received by all the central telephone exchanges, the public call stations, and the telegraph bureaux. These requests are forwarded at once to the technical management which gives the same the necessary attention. These requests must be sent, if possible, to the central management, eight days before the date fixed for the commencement of the desired service. The managers of the telephone systems concerned must be notified, by the central management, regarding any subscription agreements belonging to one of the aforementioned categories.

Additions and Changes.

113a. As a general rule the management does not grant permission to subscribers to continue the subscription agreements that have been regularly cancelled for an additional period of time, unless the prolongation is carried out on the basis of the regulations given in Article 13 of the 'General Conditions of Subscription.' Any requests that call for some deviation from the regulations of the aforesaid Article 13 must be submitted to the technical management, after the manager of the telephone system is satisfied that the reasons given by the subscriber are legitimate.

(2) In the case of half-yearly periods of subscription (exception being made in the case of cancelled agreements, as indicated in the foregoing paragraph) the manager of the telephone system is authorized to grant a temporary prolongation of the service, on condition that the subscriber pay an amount, for the extended period of service, estimated in proportion to the amount of rates specified in the subscription agreement,

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CONDITIONS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS—*Concluded.*

16. FOR TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WITH THE SERVICE ORGANIZED IN THE RAILWAY STATIONS.

(On the basis of the Royal Decree of July 30, 1891.)

(Doc. II., Sup. 21.)

1. The subscribers of a local telephone system or group, are allowed to use their telephones, or public call stations for service with the railway station or stations of a specified locality within the area of the local telephone system or group.

These telephone communications are exchanged through the telegraph or telephone bureaux connected with the telephone system, and located in the said railway stations, during the hours of service in the said bureaux. A special subscription has to be taken out in order to obtain this privilege.

These subscribers are also at liberty to converse, under the same conditions, with any persons who happen to be present in the railway stations. The telephone bureau gives permission to any person to converse directly with a subscriber's station for which the special rates are paid, or with the subscriber when he is present in a public call station; provided that the 'phone is not installed in the railway station in a location where the general public are not admitted, according to the regulations, or when the admission of a stranger to use the 'phone does not involve the risk of infringing upon the private character of other telegraphic or telephonic communications.

2. Connections are made according to the order of request. The duration of each connection is limited to 5 minutes; but two consecutive connections of the same duration are given, if no other request has been made.

3. The rates which must be paid in advance are 100 francs (\$19.30) annually, or 60 francs (\$11.58) for the half year. These rates are paid for the whole period of subscription, except in the case specified in Article 6 hereafter. The duration of the subscription is prolonged by tacit agreement for an equal length of time. At the end of the year, or half-year, the contract can be cancelled on either side, by notification being given, 15 days in advance, by registered letter.

4. The subscription is personal, and the rates are indivisible. Any combination of persons to pay the same is strictly forbidden. The conversations must have exclusive reference to the personal or business affairs of the subscriber. Any contraventions of the regulations given in the present Article, will involve the cancelling of the subscription agreement by a notice sent by registered letter, without any reimbursement of rates, and without prejudice to legal proceedings, should this be necessary on the part of the management. (See Article 3 of the Law of June 11, 1883, p. 625).

5. The government reserves the right to suspend, totally or partly, the telephone service with the railway stations, for reasons of public order, without being held liable for any compensation.

6. When for any reason of service (the subscriber himself not being at fault) the management may consider it necessary to suspend or to cancel the telephone service with the railway stations, the subscriber will be reimbursed a corresponding part of the rates, provided that the rebate amounts to at least 2 francs (39 cents).

7. The telephone service with the railway stations is always subordinate to the requirements of the general telephone service. The subscriber is bound to follow the service regulations, and the special rules that are laid down for the control of the connections with the railway stations.

8. The government is not responsible, in any way, for the service with the railway stations.

9. The costs of stamps for registration, in connection with the subscription contract, have to be borne by the subscriber.

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BELGIUM.—*Continued.*

(Translation.)

TELEPHONE MESSENGER CALLS.

(Doc. L, p. 60).

69. A telephone messenger call is solely for the purpose of requesting a person to converse, by 'phone, with the sender of the said message, or with some other person whose name, &c., is stated. So far as the management is concerned, no connection is considered to exist between the call and the conversation which follows from it.

(2). Conversations may be requested between places other than from which or to which the call is sent; but the said conversations will only be granted within the limits of those connections that are regularly open to the general public.

70. Messenger calls are allowed in service within Belgium, within the following limits and conditions:—

(1) To all subscribers' stations, no matter where the same is situated. However, if the station requested is connected by a single grounded wire to the central exchange, and if the connection requires the use of a double wire (metallic circuit), the person receiving the message must be asked to speak from a public call station, or from a subscriber's station that is connected by double wires (metallic circuit).

(2). To non-subscribers who reside in localities served by distributing telephone bureaux located in a town or commune where a telephone station is established.

(2). When the telephone bureau is installed in the telegraph bureau, as a general rule the call is sent only during the hours that the two bureaux are simultaneously open for service.

FIXING THE RATES.

71. A charge of Fr. 0.25 (5 cents) is made for a call by messenger, when the subscriber's stations or central exchanges that have to be used, belong the same telephone system or group. In interurban service, the charge is fixed at Fr. 0.35 (7 cents).

(2). When the call is sent from a subscriber's station, the amount is charged to the account of the said subscriber. If the call is sent from a public call station, the charge has to be paid, in advance, no matter whether the person sending the same be a subscriber or not.

(3). If the call is sent to a person residing beyond the radius (area) of free delivery from the distributing bureau, then the sender has to pay for the delivery of the call, according to the rates charged for delivery telegrams. These rates are as follows:—

50 centimes (10c.) for a distance of 3 kilometres ($1\frac{1}{2}$ miles or less).

75 centimes (14c.) for a distance of 3 to 4 kilometres ($1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles).

1 franc (19c.) for a distance of 4 to 5 kilometres ($2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles).

When the distance is more than 5 km. ($3\frac{1}{2}$ miles) 20 centimes (4c.) is collected for each extra km. ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile) or fraction thereof. These charges may be increased by a maximum of 50 per cent for calls delivered during night hours, or under specially difficult circumstances, that is to say, when the roads have become almost impassible on account of snow, ice, thaw, heavy rain, etc. The sender has to be informed of the reason why the charge for delivery has to be increased. The increased charge during night hours applies to deliveries that have actually been made after sundown.

*Example:—*A call is sent 10 km. ($6\frac{1}{2}$ miles) distant. The messenger leaves at 6 p.m. and returns at 10 p.m. The sun sets at 8 p.m., therefore the charge has to be calculated as follows:—

Two hours of the journey are made by day, and 2 hours by night, or:—

5 kilometres ($3\frac{1}{2}$ miles) at 20 centimes (4c.) = 1 franc (19c.).

5 kilometres ($3\frac{1}{2}$ miles) at 30 centimes (6c.) = 1 fr. 50 (29c.); total

2 fr. 50 centimes (48c.).

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The collection of this charge is mentioned above the address by the words 'delivery paid.....fr.....cmes.' This entry has also to be made on the stub (counterpart) of the service form used.

72. The operators who have to transmit calls have to be sure first of all whether the connection asked for in the call can really be made, and if sufficient interval is allowed for between the time that the call is sent and the time for which the conversation is arranged for.

(2). When the call is sent to a non-subscriber in whose place of residence there does not happen to be a public call station, the operator has to inform the sender that the person for whom the call is intended has either to use a subscriber's station, with the consent of the said subscriber, or go to a public call station, in some other locality.

(3). Calls sent from a public call station are entered in the service register with the addition of the letters A.V. If the sender does not transmit the call himself, he has to write it down on the service form for this purpose, (i.e., series G. 122).

(4). The manner of procedure indicated in *Article 56, Section 3, is also followed in the case of charges that are collected in public call stations that are not connected to a responsible central telephone exchange, or to a telegraph station.

(*Article 56, Sections III. and IV. (added to the said article in 1903):—'(III.) Charges collected in public call stations that are not connected with (annexed to) a central telephone exchange, responsible for keeping the accounts, or to a telegraph station, and which for this reason cannot be entered directly in the accounts, are converted into telegraph stamps, which are cancelled and affixed to the service register, Series G 75. Public call stations which do not have these telegraph stamps have to purchase the same for cash at the post office or at the nearest telegraph bureau. (IV.) The persons sending communications are supplied gratis on request, with a receipt for the charges paid. This receipt has to state the amount of charges collected and the time when the connections were made. The stamp with the date has to be supplied.)

(5). Calls sent from a subscriber's station are not accepted (transmitted) unless the subscriber has made a deposit, in order to guarantee the management that the charges will be paid.

73. A call from a public call station is transmitted directly to the delivery bureau by the sender, and if sender refuses to do so, or is not present himself, the call has to be transmitted by the operator in the public call station.

(2). 'Subscribers' stations are connected at once with the delivering (distributing) bureau.

(3). The call is 'phoned to the responsible transmitting central exchange, either by the subscriber or in public call stations, by the sender or operator, in the cases mentioned in section 1 of the present article.

(4). The responsible central exchange re-transmits the call to the delivery (distributing) station, or in the case of a call for a subscriber to the station of the said subscriber.

(5). If the 'calling' central exchange cannot get into connection with the 'called' central exchange, owing to the telephone arrangements not being practicable, the operator must transmit the call to the central exchange in the best position to forward the same to its destination. The request for connections in order to transmit a telephone call is announced to the 'called' central exchange by the abbreviation 'A V' (i.e., avis).

(6). If the call has to be sent to a subscriber's station, the connection has to be entered in the service register, Series G. 58, of the responsible 'called' central exchange. This entry has to mention the 'calling' central exchange, the number of the subscriber's station to which the call is sent, and the time when the connection was made. The abbreviation 'A V' (i.e., avis) is also entered in the column headed 'remarks.'

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(7). If the subscriber's station does not respond after three series of calls, repeated at intervals of 5 minutes, the calling central exchange, after being notified by the 'called' central exchange, transmits the call to the delivering (distributing) bureau, within the radius of which the subscriber resides, to whom the call has to be sent. If the said subscriber resides beyond the radius of free delivery, the 'called' central exchange receives the call in transit, and retains it in the meantime. The said exchange sends in another call, a few minutes before the hour fixed for the connection. If no response is obtained, the said central 'exchange' informs the sender of the situation, at the time when the latter asks for the connection.

(8). The charge for the call must always be placed to the account of the subscriber.

(9). No subscriber is obliged to receive the call over the 'phone.

74. Besides the part printed on the transmitting form, the text of the call comprises the following points:—

- (a) The name and surname, &c., of the receiver, as well as any other information necessary for finding the said person, by the messenger that is appointed to deliver the message.
- (b) The time when the receiver is desired to converse with the sender.
- (c) The name of the sender, and the designation of the station where the sender will be present to converse, at the time specified.
- (2) These points (to the exclusion of all others) must be noted down on the form supplied for this purpose.
- (3) In the important central exchanges telephone calls are received by the chief operator, who makes the necessary arrangements for forwarding the same.
- (4) At the 'called' exchange the call has to be written carefully and legibly with blue pencil, or, if this is not available, with black ink. When the call is received, in transit, it is written down with black pencil.
- (5) It is forbidden to scratch out, erase, or to write one word over another, in such a way as to render the first words that are written down illegible. In case of error, the letter, figure or passage at fault, has to be scored through, but in such a manner that it may always be possible to read what was first written down.
- (6) When the call has been transcribed, the operator has to acknowledge reception of the same, by repeating it over again, and by taking all the precautions that have been specified for telegrams transmitted by 'phone.
- (7) The time when the transmission or receipt terminates has to be entered on the sheet (form).

75. Except in the case of Brussels, where several stations are authorized to deliver telephone calls, this duty, as a general rule, devolves upon the bureau (station) in each locality, which is charged with the duty of transmitting telegrams by telephone, or, if there is no bureau of this kind, the call has to be forwarded by the telephone bureau.

- (2) The delivering bureau fills up the counterfoil of the call, detaches it from the form (sheet), and proceeds with the forwarding, just as if it were a telegram. When the call has to be sent to a non-subscriber, residing in a locality where there is no public call station, the receiving form on which the call is written down is completed by having a special ticket affixed, which supplies the receiver with the necessary information for obtaining the connection (conversation) requested. This ticket is drawn up in French and Flemish, after the following form:—

'Conversation by telephone can be requested:—

'(1) From a subscriber's station, by the consent of the said subscriber. For interurban conversation, subscribers have to make a deposit, in order to guarantee the payment of the charges.

'(2) From a public call station, situated in some other locality.'

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- (3) If the call cannot be forwarded, the bureau has to retain the same, making every possible effort to have it forwarded later on, provided that the management is not put to any expense in the matter.
- (4) When it is impossible to forward the call, the delivering bureau must inform the called exchange of the circumstance, in order that the latter may be able to notify the sender, at the time when he asks for the connection, with the person for whom the call is intended.

76. As soon as the service is closed for the day, or on the following day, the counterfoil receipts, relating to the telephone calls, in local service, sent from the subscribers' stations, have to be forwarded by the first mail from the delivering bureau to the central exchange responsible for keeping the accounts.

- (2) The other counterfoil receipts and the copies (minutes) of the calls, are sent in to the management, or as the case may require, they are added to the register of the public call station, or to the documents relating to the telegraph service.

- (3) The 'calling' central exchange responsible for keeping the accounts, has to enter, on the following day, into service register, series G-58, the messages sent from subscribers' stations. The charges due are noted down in the said register, along with each call entered. These charges must be kept separate from those for long-distance connections. The said charges are added up, and the amount is carried over, as verified receipts, to the accounts, under the heading 'Telephone calls.' Afterwards these charges are entered into the separate accounts of the various subscribers. Series G. 71.

- (4) The copies of the telephone calls, the counterfoils from the delivering bureaux and the service registers where these are entered, are to be sent in to the technical management, along with the other documents from the bureau.

77. The connections arranged for by telephone calls are made at the request of either the sender or the receiver of the said call. These connections are subject to the regulations of the ordinary service, and are treated as if the preliminary call (advance call) had not been sent.

BELGIUM—*Continued.*

No. 2921.

(Translation.)

ROYAL DECREE OF NOVEMBER 6, 1882, RELATING TO THE CONNECTING OF PRIVATE TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINES TO THE GOVERNMENT TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

(Doc. II., Sup. 9.)

1. The Minister of Public Works may permit private individuals to have their premises connected to the government system, either by telegraph or telephone.

2. Rules are to be drawn up, by the said minister, fixing the general conditions on which this permission is to be granted. Special conditions, however, may be introduced, according to circumstances, by authoritative decrees.

3. Telegrams sent from or to the premises connected to the government system are received and transmitted by the bureau concerned, without any extra charge. Service despatches exchanged between the two points, either relating to the working of the line, or to the service between the subscriber and the station to which he is connected, are exempted from any charges.

The same rule applies to any kind of telephonic communications, when these have not to be transmitted again by writing. If telephonic communications, sent to the bureau, have to be transmitted by telegraph, by post, or by messenger, they are treated as telegrams, and are subject to the ordinary rates.

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4. An authoritative decree will fix the amount to be paid for the service from the subscriber's residence, and also for the use of the instruments supplied by the government.

5. The Royal Decree, of December 6, 1878, is revoked. The Minister of Public Works will fix the period of time within which the dispositions of the present decree are to be applied to connections that have already been made.

GENERAL RULES FOR CONNECTING PRIVATE TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINES TO THE
GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

(Doc. II., p. 24.)

1. The request for connection is to be addressed to the Minister of Public Works. The said request must specify the point to be connected, the route to be followed, and the bureau with which connections are to be made.

2. The line is constructed and maintained by the telegraph management, or by the person obtaining permission to receive the service.

3. The telegraph management supplies such instruments and accessories, in the bureau with which connections are made, as the said management may consider necessary for the service. The management undertakes the maintaining of these instruments and accessories.

4. The telegraph management—

(1) furnishes, installs and maintains the instruments and accessories required at the subscriber's premises;

(2) furnishes the materials required for the use of the instruments, such as paper strips, ink, chemicals, &c.;

(3) furnishes instruction to the person using the arrangements or to his agents, at his premises, on payment of 10 francs (\$1.93) per day.

5. If the line has to be carried over the property of other persons, the applicant has to procure the permission of the proprietors, tenants, and other persons interested, and send in the same to the management.

Any costs (compensation) resulting from the construction, maintenance, or the repairing of the connections (line), have to be borne exclusively by the subscriber.

6. An authoritative decree will determine the kind of instruments and accessories to be employed, and also the conditions of installation and connection. It will also fix the annual amount to be paid by the applicant to the government, for the construction and maintenance of the lines installed by the telegraph management. This amount is fixed, by contract, per kilometre of wire (line) at the rate of:—40 francs (\$7.72) for a contract of 10 years; 60 francs (\$11.58) for a contract of 5 years; and 25 francs (\$4.82½) for each of the 5 years which may follow this last period. Any fraction of distance less than 5 kilometres is charged for as a half kilometre (½ mile). Any fraction more is charged for as a full kilometre (1 mile). The residence connected to the telegraph system pays over and above, in all cases, a fixed sum of 125 francs (\$24.12½) annually, for the service of the station installed in the bureau, and for the maintenance and use of the apparatus that are supplied by the government to the said bureau. The charges for the apparatus, rented from the government, that are installed in the subscriber's residence, are fixed according to the nature and importance of the same, in each special case.

7. The subscriber is forbidden, unless authorized by the Minister of Public Works to have any connections made between his own private line, and any other line.

8. No charge is allowed to be collected for the use of the lines. When any contravention is reported, the Minister of Public Works may suspend the connection, without any reduction being made in the rates for the period of interruption.

9. The service of the private lines is always subordinate to the requirements of the general service. The regulations and decrees that are in force for the government system, apply also to the private connections (lines).

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10. All telegraphic or telephonic communications sent from or to the government premises are dealt with by the agents (employees) of the management.

11. The charges due by the subscriber for the transmission of his despatches are collected by means of telegraph-stamps, which he hands over to the bureau with which he is connected, or are deducted from an amount previously paid in as a guarantee. The stamps and the deposit are renewed as soon as request is made by the said bureau. The first copies of the private despatches transmitted by telegraph, are sent to the bureau concerned on the day after they are transmitted. Each despatch that has to be sent by writing to the person for whom it is designed, is regarded as a telegram, and is charged for as such, without regard to the method by which it is forwarded.

12. The agents of the management have the right to inspect, whenever they may consider it necessary, the subscribers' stations, and to inquire as to the nature of the despatches that are exchanged.

13. The permission given by the Minister of Public Works may be revoked at any time, without any compensation being given. An order for the cancelling of a connection passes into effect six months after notification of the same is sent to the person concerned.

14. The government is not responsible, in any way, for the connections which it constructs, maintains, or authorizes.

15. If the government concedes to any private enterprise the duty of constructing and maintaining the connections, the person obtaining the concession shall have the benefit of charges and rights resulting from previous authorizations. If the new general tariff is more favourable, the subscriber is to have the benefit of the same.

REGULATIONS RELATING TO PRIVATE TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINES NOT CONNECTED TO THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

(Doc. II., Sup. 10.)

The following regulations have been adopted for the purpose of regulating the construction and operation of private telegraph and telephone lines not connected with the government system:—

1. Private telegraph or telephone lines are to be used exclusively for the service of those who have constructed them. It is strictly forbidden to collect any charge or rates, directly or indirectly, for the transmission of messages sent by other persons than those operating the lines.

2. Any private line set up, either wholly or partly, on the government property, must be authorized by the Minister of Railways, Posts and Telegraphs.

3. Any part of a private line which has to be installed on government property, is to be constructed and maintained by the telegraph management.

4. If the person concerned requests it, the government may also undertake the construction and maintenance of the private lines not set up on government property.

5. The applicant must obtain the permission of the proprietors and occupants of the property over which, or under which the wires have to be led; and also the permission of the authorities of the provinces and communes which have the control of the public roads through which, or over which, these wires are led. The applicant must bear all the expenses and compensations that may be necessary.

6. The contracts are concluded for a period of 5 years, or 10 years.

7. The charge to be paid to the government for the use of the lines constructed by the same, is fixed according to the period of contract. The charge covers both the use of the line and of the public property, the expense of maintaining or renewing the same, and the cost of removing it when the term of contract expires.

8. If the government cedes to a private enterprise the construction of private lines, then the government must furnish at the same time, the contracts which it has already carried out. The private individuals must receive the same privileges from those who obtain the concession to construct the private lines, as are received BELGIUM.

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from the government. On the other hand, they must pay the same charges, unless the amount should be reduced to the level of the general tariff adopted by those who obtain the concession.

BELGIUM—*Continued.*

No. 292m.

(Translation.)

LAW OF JUNE 11, 1883, CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF TELEPHONE SYSTEMS.

(Doc. II., p. 13.)

1. The government is authorized to undertake itself, or to concede, in conformity with the conditions annexed to the present law, the establishment and operation of telephone systems.

2. The penal laws, and the police regulations relating to telegraph arrangements are applicable to the telephone lines, constructed or conceded by the government. The law of March 1, 1851, is also extended to telephonic communications.

3. Any person who operates a telegraph or telephone line for the purpose of collecting rates without being supplied with a regular concession, is to be punished with a fine of from 100 to 500 francs.

4. Proprietors and occupiers are bound to tolerate above their buildings or grounds the wires of the telephone lines that are covered by the present law, but without attachment or contact. The government fixes the conditions which determine the carrying of these wires over the public roads and grounds. Proprietors and occupiers are entitled to compensation for any damage which may supervene, from the application of the foregoing enactment. It is forbidden to undertake any work on or under private property, without having first obtained the consent of the proprietor, and, if requisite, the consent of the occupier.

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3. As a general rule, the telegraph management must no longer authorize or defend the practice of keeping collection boxes at the residences of subscribers in the telephone service, for the purpose of collecting donations for philanthropic objects. Moreover, it must be understood that wherever these collection boxes may be placed, the inscription affixed thereto must not in any way refer to the use of the telephone. In like manner, no persuasion or solicitation must be made to any person whom the aforesaid subscriber may authorize to use the telephone. Any infraction of this regulation shall render the offenders liable to be prosecuted according to the terms of Article 3 of this present law.

4. Although the conditions annexed to this law are not applicable to the operating of the telephone service by the state, yet Article 13 of these 'conditions' has to be maintained in force. This article states that 'the proprietor shall have the right to build, plant, and change the existing condition of his property, in whichever way he may see fit. The grantee (in this case the telegraph management), having been duly apprised of these alterations, must, at his own expense, and within a period of eight days, take all necessary steps, in order that the said proprietor may freely exercise his rights.

LAW OF MAY 20, 1898, EXTENDING THE POWERS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN TELEPHONE MATTERS.

(Doc. II., p. 15.)

1. The government has the authority to carry out all works necessary for the construction, and the maintenance in good working order, of overhead and underground

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telephone lines, on or under the squares, thoroughfares, streets, roads, streams and canals, which form part of the public domain of the state, of the provinces, and of the communes.

2. This occupation must not infringe the use of the said public domain, and must not involve any dispossession.

3. A notification of the work proposed to be carried out, must be sent, by registered letter, to the authorities of the province or commune, at least twenty days before the proposed work is begun. Plans and diagrams of the work intended to be carried out, must be sent with the said notification.

When the proposed work comprises the construction of underground lines, either underneath, or above (on) the works (constructions) belonging to the service of the provinces, or communes, or, rather when the work proposed involves the changing or removal of one of these works (constructions), it is assumed that the two managements are agreed on the matter, if no objection has been made, within a period of twenty days from the time that the notification was given. If no agreement is arrived at, the matter is decided by a royal decree, signed by the Minister of the Interior and of Public Instruction. Sewers, water pipes and gas pipes, as well as all existing constructions, are to be treated with as much care as possible. The same manner of procedure applies to overhead lines. In all cases, these lines must not interfere with existing constructions, nor must they stand in the way of subsequent constructions.

4. The government will give compensation to the provinces and communes for any damages that may result from carrying out the work, specified in Article 1, after an estimate has been made of the same, either by mutual agreement or by some competent judge. These damages comprise:—

- (1) Any changes made in the existing constructions.
- (2) Any special work which has to be carried out by the said provinces or communes, on account of the construction of the telephone lines.
- (3) Any additional expenses in maintaining constructions, &c., which may be caused by the said works or changes.

5. When the carrying out of the work specified in Article 1 causes detriment to those who have rights on the public roads, the government will give compensation to such persons, according to the manner specified in Article 4.

ROYAL DECREE

OF OCTOBER 15, 1876, RELATING TO WORKS CONSTRUCTED ALONG THE ROUTE OF OVERHEAD AND UNDERGROUND TELEGRAPH LINES.

N.B.—The enactments of this royal decree are applicable to the telephone lines constructed or conceded by the government (Article 2, of the Law of June 11, 1883).

1. No person is allowed to begin any work such as lopping or cutting down trees, making excavations, trenches, constructions, or pulling down buildings, or any other work along the route of a telegraph or telephone line, which may interfere with the service of the said line, or damage it, without having first notified the management. This notification must be sent in writing to one of the two nearest telegraph stations at least five days before the commencement of the work. A dated receipt will be given therefor. The official in the telegraph station (collector or manager), who receives the notification of a work to be carried out under the aforementioned conditions, is bound to give a dated receipt for the same, and to give notice of it at once by telegram, to the manager of the technical section of the telegraph stations concerned, or to the manager of the telephone system, as the case may require.

2. Any contravention of the preceding article will be punished with a fine of 25 francs (\$4.82½), and from 1 to 7 days' imprisonment, or one of these penalties.

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