

TOLL CHARGES MAKE TROUBLE

Griggs County Telephone Company Loses Many Phones Owing to New Rates.

Since the Griggs County Telephone company inaugurated their new system of rates, on December 1, which they were allowed to do by the railroad commissioners of North Dakota, many of the company's patrons have protested against the raise and discontinued their telephone service.

The bone of contention seems to be the toll charge to Cooperstown, Jessie and Binford, which heretofore had been free. A raise was also made for business and residence phones, except rural lines, but the the objection to this has not been so vigorous.

At Jessie, a week ago, farmers and business men met with officers of the company, to present their side of the case, but no satisfaction was given and as a consequence all the telephones but two on the Jessie exchange have been discontinued. At this writing, 12 phones on the Binford exchange have been disconnected, nine of which are in town and the balance on rural lines. At Cooperstown a few have been taken out, and it is rumored that more will go.

Up to the present time the telephone company has not yielded to any protest made by their patrons, and it is difficult to conjecture what any further remonstrance will avail.

A meeting of the subscribers of the Binford and Jessie exchanges will be held in the opera house in Binford tomorrow (Friday) evening, when matters pertaining to the raise will be discussed, and it is likely that some action will be taken at this meeting to reach a solution of the difficulty. There is no denying that the increase in rates has stirred up considerable indignation among the patrons and it is probable that unless the company concedes some points, a new company will be organized.