

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 277,

May 23, 1941.

The Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines met at 9.30 o'clock a.m. The Acting Chairman, Mr. Lionel Chevrier, presided.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, shall we come to order? We have a quorum.

BILL No. 27, BILL B2 OF THE SENATE

An Act respecting British Columbia Telephone Company.

Whereas British Columbia Telephone Company was duly incorporated by an Act of the Parliament of Canada, chapter sixty-six of the statutes of 1916, under the name of "Western Canada Telephone Company", which name has been changed to that of "British Columbia Telephone Company" pursuant to the provisions of section fifteen of the said Act and with the approval of the Secretary of State of Canada, and

Whereas British Columbia Telephone Company has presented a petition praying that the said Act be amended so that it may be empowered to increase its capital stock and be further empowered as hereinafter set forth, and it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said petition: Therefore His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

Is the committee prepared to hear representations?

Mr. HOWDEN: I would move that representations be heard.

Mr. LOCKHART: I would second that motion.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. HANSON: I understand the president of the telephone company is here, Mr. Gordon Farrell; also Major G. H. Hamilton, the managing director, and Mr. G. S. Stairs, K.C.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Is it your pleasure to hear these gentlemen?

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

G. A. STAIRS, K.C., Montreal, called:

Mr. STAIRS: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I am appearing for the British Columbia Telephone Company which is affected by this bill, and, as the matter is an important one, if it is agreeable to the committee I think it would be helpful if Major Hamilton, the general manager of the company, could say a few words in explanation of the necessity for this application for a grant of power to enable the company to make an increase in its capital as required.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Do you wish to hear him first?

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Major GORDON H. HAMILTON, General Manager, British Columbia Telephone Company, called:

Mr. HAMILTON: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the growth and development of British Columbia during the past years and during the current year has been such that the company has to expand its plant and equipment to meet the