

PREFACE

vii

My inquiry was necessarily of a much less formidable character. It was unavoidable to confine it almost altogether to the history of the system in so far as this history might be gathered from published documents, from contemporary newspapers, and from conversation with those who had had relations with the system or opportunities to know the course of events. The inquiry was greatly facilitated by the fact that a considerable mass of privately collected authoritative data relating to the subject fortunately came into my possession. The following pages are the result of a critical analysis of all the material at my disposal. Much of it was found to be inaccurate or biased and was therefore rejected. The narrative is scrupulously documented. It purports to set forth statements of fact readily susceptible of confirmation by any one who will take the trouble to consult the authorities which have been given. The conclusions which are drawn from the statements of fact seem to be irresistible, and they are stated with due reserve. The book must therefore be judged not as an attack upon the Manitoba Government nor upon its administration of the telephone system, but as a critical narrative of historical facts written from a point of view as impartial as possible.

It should be noticed that since my inquiry was concluded, the Government which was responsible for the purchase of the telephone system and for its ad-