

APPENDIX No. 1

Rates: For long distance equipment in Sarnia, \$30 for business offices; \$25 for residential places.

The above is for individual metallic circuit line. Blake equipment, \$5 less for each in Petrolea, \$5 less than in Sarnia. In the smaller places, \$15 per annum.

The company will give telephones to farmers and residents in the rural districts at \$20 per annum, provided there is one subscriber for each mile of line outside the limits of a municipality have a regular exchange. The Bell Company has never been requested to put in rural service except in two instances, and service was immediately installed. They have met all demands for service thus far. The present system seems to satisfy the public so far as it is possible under the circumstances. There are points in the county which should, in our opinion, be connected with the long-distance lines, viz.: Rutherford, Oakdale, Corunna, Aberfeldy, Wilkesport and other places. With these exceptions, the county is fairly well covered.

This county council would approve of a well matured scheme for managing the telephone service of the country by the government in much the same manner as the post office department, and would approve of having the same fully extended through the rural districts at as reasonable rates as the actual cost will permit, if after investigation such should be deemed feasible and advisable.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. C. WATSON,
Chairman.

No. 257.

J. R. McNEILLIE, Clerk and Treasurer.

The Chairman,
Select Committee on Telephone Systems,
House of Commons, Ottawa.

LINDSAY, ONT., July 19, 1905.

SIR,—I have the honour, by instructions from the council of the county of Victoria, to reply to your letter of June 2, asking for information respecting the telephonic conditions in this locality.

It was present to the mind of the committee appointed by the council to deal with your communication, that some years ago there had been a contest between the Bell Telephone Company and some private individuals respecting the extension of telephone service to various points in the county of Victoria, and that Mr. J. G. Eyres, now of Lindsay, was an active combatant on the side of the public. An interview with Mr. Eyres shows him to be the historian of an event in telephone affairs which is worthy of being recorded in the proceedings of the Select Committee of the House of Commons. Mr. Eyres and those who were associated with him won a notable victory. The leader is, naturally, not desirous of being called before the Committee, but should the taking of evidence be continued at the next session of parliament, the testimony Mr. Eyres could give would throw a flood of light on the methods of the company in preventing and withholding service from what the company may declare to be non-paying points, unless forced by the enterprise and courage of interested persons.

To Mr. Eyres and his colleagues is owing the result that the service given by the company extends to almost every village and grain-buying station in the county of Victoria.

Besides the service given by the company, there is a private system covering the southern portion of the township of Mariposa, with which the company gives connection at the village of Little Britain.

On the main question, the council adheres to the terms of their petition to His Excellency the Governor-General in January last, that the long-distance telephone business of the Dominion should be owned and operated by the government.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. R. McNEILLIE,
Clerk, County of Victoria.