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## REVOLT AGAINST BELL COMPANY TACTICS

### Intolerable Conditions Imposed on Public by Phone Monopoly—How Charters' Bill is Designed to Protect Common People.

So intolerable have the conditions become which the Bell Telephone monopoly is imposing upon the public everywhere that a general revolt has been organized and is taking legislative shape in various parts of the United States. In Ontario the farmers and the independent rural services which they have created are hampered and encumbered in the most arbitrary way by the Bell Company.

The bill introduced by Samuel Charters, M.L.A., and coming before the legislative committee to-day follows the Dominion act, requiring the approval of the railway board for all agreements made by the Bell Company with independent companies, and also follows the model of such acts as have been proposed in the United States, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and other states have passed acts compelling companies to connect with adjacent companies. Some states are dealing with the matter thru the State Public Service Commissions. The majority of the telephone authorities outside the Bell influence agree that compulsory connection is a good thing, "as it offers a block to the Bell Company's efforts to bring about a disintegration of the independent business by voluntary contract."

### Ancient Arguments.

The arguments are all on a parallel with those directed against the penny post when it was introduced. The main point is that the telephone is a public necessity, and that its use must be helped and not hindered, and that the convenience of the public is to be regarded before any questions of dividends. This has been so recognized in England that nationalization of the telephone service has never been lost sight of, and the cheapest and most efficient service is regarded as the only desirable one. The Bell monopoly has an entirely different conception of the purpose of a telephone service, as an incident, one of many, will show.

A representative of the Mount Pleasant Telephone Company called on The World yesterday, and described the methods adopted by the Bell people in dealing with his company. They made an agreement with the Bell Company in December, 1908, for five years, for connection with Colborne and Hastings, at a ten per cent rate, to be equally divided. A clause in the agreement prohibited the company making connection with any other company. The Bell agent told the Mount Pleasant Company that the agreement had been submitted to the railway board, and that statement was accepted in good faith. When the agreement came back there was no map of the territory to be covered by the Mount Pleasant Company was drawn, and the agreement was settled as to be according to the map. When the agreement came back there was no map, and only three townships were mentioned in the agreement. The Mount Pleasant people called for the map, and an altered map was then sent down to them. According to the agreement no lines were to be extended beyond the limits of the territory agreed upon, but the Mount Pleasant Company states that the original map gave them a much wider territory. The company has lately extended its lines into the territory which had originally contemplated, and the Bell Company called meetings at Colborne and Brighton to create sentiment against this rebellion proceeding. Threats were made that if the Mount Pleasant Company did not comply with the Bell demands the wires would be cut, and if the extensions were not stopped "drastic measures" would be resorted to.

### Mean Tactics.

The Bell company has endeavored to coerce the independent companies in various ways, and some of these are unduly petty and even spiteful. In the case of a death, many people refused to call up an independent company, and next morning, instead of using the independent telephone across the way, the Bell operator hired a rig and drove ten miles, charging the expense to the customer, and causing "drastic measures" to be resorted to.

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## ALBERTA GOVT. SUSTAINED ON DIVISION

### The Insurgent Resolution to Condemn Great Waterways Railway Contract Was Defeated by 23 to 15.

EDMONTON, Alta., March 3.—(Special.)—The Rutherford government was sustained late to-night, when J. R. Boyle's resolution re the Alberta and Great Waterways Railway was defeated by 23 to 15. Cornwall's vote was challenger, as being a member of the company.

The resolution declared that the contract does not protect the interests of the people, and calls upon the government to expropriate the rights and privileges of the company, and to build it under the supervision of a commission of three.

Boyle is leader of the so-called insurgent Liberals, who have been opposing the contract.

This afternoon Attorney-General Cross read an affidavit from one Hopkins denying that he had stated that Cross had authorized the sale of automatic phones on a condition of paying \$12,000 to a campaign fund.

Cross dared a repetition of the charge outside the house. He offered to attend the trial, and the junior member of Calgary, admitting he had desired the solicitorship of the great waterways, said it was in competition with the attorney-general's firm, who were now solicitors for the G.T.R. and C.N.R.

He then attacked the financial precautions of the premier, accusing the minister of giving a guarantee to the company without status.

The present legislature is divided: Liberals 35, Conservatives 2, Independents 2, Socialists 1.

## BENNETT CHARGES GRAFT

### Says Attorney-General of Alberta Made Demands for Campaign Funds.

EDMONTON, Alta., March 3.—A five hours' speech by R. B. Bennett, Conservative, and junior member for Calgary, culminated at midnight in charges that President Clarke, head of the Alberta and Great Waterways Co., had split up \$300,000 with his colleagues on the sale of bonds, and that he himself had been approached by financial interests seeking to influence his vote on this question.

Mr. Bennett said that the bonds actually sold at 110 and that the difference between that and par, at which price they were represented to have been sold, was the amount which went into the pockets of the Morgan house and the Clarke railway promoters. The Morgans got more than \$250,000.

### DOMINION BANK MOVE?

#### May Be Purchaser of James Building at King and Yonge.

A well defined rumor is afloat respecting the transfer of the James Building at the northeast corner of King and Yonge-streets, that the property has been purchased for the Dominion Bank. The officers of the bank have been complaining for some time about lack of accommodation, and this move is regarded as a solution of that problem.

## ABOUT 100 DEAD UNDER ACRES OF SNOW

### May Take Weeks to Recover Bodies—150 Men Engaged in Melancholy Task—Victims Are All Westerners.

WELLINGTON, Wash., March 3.—Eighty-six names are now on the list of dead and missing passengers, railroad and postal employes, who were carried down by the avalanche which destroyed two Great Northern trains Tuesday morning.

Statements of the number of laborers fighting the snow who were sleeping on the ill-fated trains vary from 20 to 30. An estimate of 100 dead is conservative, it is said to-night.

All the dead were residents of the northwest. Of the injured, only Rev. Bishop Winnet of Chicago was from the east.

No one who has seen the wreckage has the slightest hope of finding any of the missing alive. The explorations have uncovered none living, and some of the bodies are shockingly mangled.

An avalanche of dry snow might have covered its victims alive, but the gorge at Wellington is packed tight with wet snow, ice, huge trees, and glacial boulders of enormous weight.

Two of the bodies recovered were those of electricians who were living in a cabin at the edge of Wellington and who were carried 200 feet down the slope.

### Supplies Carried Over Trail.

All day a stream of men with packs strapped to their backs wound about the mountain path from Skykomish to scenic and Wellington, carrying food and supplies for the injured. Some are digging for the bodies of friends or relatives. Sightseers were told that they were not wanted.

A laborer was caught taking trinkets from a woman's body and he was compelled to start down the trail at once.

One hundred and fifty men dug for bodies in the debris all day. Among the bodies found to-day were those of ex-Prosecuting Attorney R. M. Barnhart, of Spokane, Conductor J. L. Pettit, who after a trip on foot to Skykomish, went back to his post, and Mrs. M. A. Covington of Olympia, who left Spokane to celebrate her golden wedding in Seattle to-day.

## TRAMP NOW CHARGED WITH WILFUL MURDER

### Admitted to Constable That He Had Struck Fatal Blow—Death Was From Shock.

PARRY SOUND, March 3.—(Special.)—Lewis Young, vagabond, was tonight declared by a coroner's jury to be guilty of wilful murder of M. J. Davis, a farmer, who was found dead in his room in the Montgomery Hotel late Monday night.

Dr. Tandy and Lambert testified that death was due to shock. There were two wounds on the head, but no fracture of the skull or injury to the brain.

Constable Forde swore that Young left night, after being duly warned, had admitted striking Davis with a bottle, but had said he did not know why he had done it.

Colin Macdonald, a C. N. O. Railway conductor, identified a return ticket, Wallbridge to Parry Sound, found in Young's possession, as having been originally shown by Davis.

James Donaldson, aged 23, a pal of Young's, told their wanderings. Donaldson was arrested at Sudbury, after having prevented a train wreck 14 miles south of here, when he found a broken rail and flagged a train.

Donaldson said his home was Barrie, Ont., where his mother lives. He met Young, who introduced himself as Peterson, about Feb. 2, at Lockport, N. Y. They came to Canada, beating their way in empty freight cars and walking between rides. At Barrie, Donaldson stayed with his mother four days and worked in a bolt factory. They spent two days working at Cowan, beat their way to Scotia Junction, and then to Otter Lake Station, walking in to Parry Sound about 3 p.m. Monday. They went to the Montgomery House and saw Davis.

Young remarked that old gent looks good for some change, and persuaded Davis to take him to his room and give him something to eat and 25 cents in cash. Davis told Young to come back again and he'd see what could be done.

Falling to get a freight out of town that night, they returned to the hotel, when Young, saying he wanted to see good for some change, went to buy cigars. Donaldson and the hotel porter later found Davis dead and chased up Young and arrested him.

## RECORD FOR HOGS

### H. P. Kennedy, Montreal, Gets \$10 a Hundred at That City.

H. P. Kennedy of Peterboro, one of the largest live stock dealers in Ontario, sold hogs on the Montreal market this week at \$10 per cwt. live weight.

## CANADA WILL RECIPROCATE

### If United States Senate Sanction Repeal of Tonnage Tax.

OTTAWA, March 3.—(Special.)—The action of the house of representatives in repealing the tonnage tax upon Canadian vessels on the great lakes is accepted by the Canadian Government as a proof of the friendly attitude towards the Dominion.

## PHILADELPHIA COUNCIL LEAVE STRIKE TO COURTS

PHILADELPHIA, March 3.—For the first time in five years citizens were excluded to-day from the sessions of the select and common councils.

## OTTAWA, March 3.—(Special.)—The speech of J. J. Donnelly, Conservative member for South Bruce, was the feature of to-day's debate on the naval bill. He caustically referred to the "Stay at Home Navy," which Sir Wilfrid Laurier wished to establish.

## PHILADELPHIA COUNCIL LEAVE STRIKE TO COURTS

The strike was practically ignored by both bodies. A message from Mayor Reburn reviewed the situation briefly and stated his policy of non-interference, in part as follows:

"It is not the city's duty, nor yours nor mine, to interfere between the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co. and its employees. The courts of law are available for the redress of any real grievance which either may have against the other."

## UNCLE SAM GOES TO CANADA A-COURTING.



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## BANK INSPECTION AS A COUNSEL VIEWS IT

### Z. A. Lash, K.C., Points Out Why Bankers and Government Should Co-operate to Secure the Best Results.

Z. A. Lash, K.C., of Toronto, for many years general counsel of the incorporated banks of Canada and one-time deputy minister of justice for Canada, has written an article in The Canadian Courier of Toronto, dealing with the question of bank inspection as brought up by Mr. H. C. McLeod, late of the Bank of Nova Scotia, in connection with the renewal of the bank charters at Ottawa this session. It is the best statement on behalf of the banks yet made and reads:

When a bank fails there is a general consensus of opinion among those who lose by the failure that somebody should have done something to prevent the failure, and that had a proper oversight of the bank's operations been exercised by the proper authorities, the failure would not have occurred.

This opinion is not confined to those who lose by the failure; a general discussion takes place, ending in the conclusion that the government should do something to prevent a recurrence of the disaster. This precise something to be done is not stated very definitely, but the opinion is expressed in general terms that there should be government inspection and that with such inspection the public and the shareholders would be protected.

If a plan could be devised whereby reliable information of the right kind respecting a bank's position could from time to time be obtained by some authority acting in the public interest, such authority having power to initiate action with respect to the bank should the public interest so demand, the banks themselves should heartily support such a plan. The difficulty is to decide upon the nature and extent of the information to be obtained and the means by which it should be obtained and the action (if any) to be taken when it has been obtained. My object is to throw some light upon these questions and to endeavor to help in their solution. The question is not a practically practical one—theory aids but little. What would suit one set of conditions would not suit a different set, therefore it is necessary to consider what our conditions in Canada are before an intelligent answer to the question can be given.

### Branches Are Many.

Altho there are presently only 29 banks in Canada in active business, yet there are 224 branches of these banks doing business in 1186 different cities and towns, including the branches in London, England, the United States of America, Newfoundland, Jamaica, Cuba and Mexico. The branches on this continent extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Each branch for practical purposes a separate bank, keeps a separate set of books, receives savings bank and general deposits, and collects money for customers and corresponds; lends money by discounting bills and notes and by way of overdrawing accounts and on call, issues bank notes for circulation and carries on a general banking business with the public and with other banks and correspondents.

If a branch has deposits in excess of its loans, the surplus generally is sent to some branch where the loans exceed the deposits, and for this and other reasons various branches have dealings with other branches, as well as with head office. Each branch manager has, within certain limits, a discretion respecting the business of the branch, but each is, of course, subject to the general authority of the head office and keeps it continually informed of its business and position. This is done by returns on forms supplied for the purpose and by special reports and correspondence. By the Bank Act certain limitations are placed upon the powers of banks with respect to the investment of their moneys and to the nature of their loans, and special provisions are made with regard to the kinds of securities which may be and may not be taken.

### PHILLIP THE SLEEPLESS.

Up at the Grovener House they say the first man up in the morning and the last man up at night is Citizen Phil Bowyer. And sometimes he doesn't smoke a pipe.

### The Hat Question.

You must have a new hat for spring and to-day is the proper time to purchase it. The Dineen Company has all the new designs for the coming season including those by Dunlap and Heati for whom the Dineen Company is sole Canadian agent.

## PHONE SERVICE FOR FARMERS

### ELECTORS OF ONTARIO: Cut out the accompanying card, sign it, place it in an envelope, and address it to your local member at the Legislature, Queen's Park, Toronto. Mr. Charters' bill is designed chiefly in the interests of the farmers, but it will help every telephone user in the province, and will assist every independent telephone company in its struggle with a monopoly. Let your member know you want him to support it.

I am one of the voters in your constituency, and I wish you to represent me in supporting the telephone bill introduced by Mr. Samuel Charters. I want fair play to the telephone users in the province, and protection for the independent rural and farmers' companies from monopoly.

(Signed) .....

Address .....

## DISRUPTS TRAIN SCHEDULES

### And They Will Run Slower If Lancaster Law Continues.

MONTREAL, March 3.—(Special.)—D. McNicoll, vice-president of the C. P. R., stated to-day that if the Lancaster law, compelling trains to stop up at crossings where fatalities have occurred, is allowed to continue in force without modification, the whole train arrangements of the country would have to be changed, and trains run on a lower schedule.

## UNITARIAN IN SYNAGOG.

MONTREAL, March 3.—(Special.)—To-morrow night Rev. Frederick R. Griffin, pastor of the Church of the Messiah (Unitarian), will preach the sermon in Temple Emmanuel, the Jewish place of worship on Stanley-street, near Dorchester. The subject will be "The Search for God."



Continued on Page 12.

Continued on Page 3.

## A RETROSPECT.

MARCH 4, 1848.—The government of Canada, Henry Sherwood, prime minister, resigned. The government was defeated on an amendment by Robert Baldwin. Lafontaine succeeded Sherwood and formed the Baldwin-Lafontaine ministry. March 4, 1881, St. Thomas, Ont., received a city charter.