

The arrangement has been made on a mutual basis that is satisfactory to all concerned. I am sure if this measure goes through to-night it will be entirely satisfactory to the country.

Mr. ALCORN. I would like a little information. Am I correct in understanding that the motion as made, I believe by the Minister of Railways, is to substitute the contents of his motion for subsection 1 of section 25?

Mr. HYMAN. As I understand the matter, the main motion is the report of the subcommittee, that is section 25. The amendment is moved by the Minister of Railways and the amendment to the amendment is moved by the hon. member for South York.

Mr. MILLER. As I understand the amendment proposed by the minister, any telephone system owned by a province, or municipality, or corporation, may obtain connection with another company having a long distance line. Being a member of the Telephone Committee of last session, I learned that there are a number of telephone systems owned by municipalities or individual persons, perhaps not large systems, but quite a number of them, and of importance in their own localities. I would suggest that the amendment be so changed as to include systems owned by a province, a municipality, a corporation, a person or persons.

Mr. EMMERSON. I do not think there would be any advantage in carrying out that suggestion. It must be borne in mind that the second subsection of section 25 limits the connection to companies having an equipment of equal standing. The small lines to which the hon. gentleman refers do not usually possess the class of phones that would be necessary in the use of a long distance line. It is apparent that in order to avail themselves of the privilege of a long distance line they would have to be on a telephone line that had long distance phones and it would not be profitable to have connection of that character unless the phones were of an equal class.

Mr. SPROULE. I see the Minister of Justice before me and I would remind him that I took part in the election in which he was successful. I remember a very interesting discussion that took place at Stouffville at which friends of the Minister of Justice contended that he would act in the interest of the farmers, and the telephone question was mentioned. The Minister of Justice was then believed to be the solicitor for the Bell Telephone Company, and one man contended that he would not work for the farmer, but the man who upheld the Minister of Justice said: When he goes to Ottawa there is not a man in the House

Mr. ZIMMERMAN.

who will rise up quicker to defend the farmer than he will. I watched with a good deal of interest to-night to see if he would say one word for the farmers of Stouffville and the surrounding country. We had a long discussion in the hotel after the meeting and the friends of the Minister of Justice asserted that he would do as much for the farmer as any other member of parliament could do. The farmers will be surprised to find that the Minister of Justice has not raised his voice to-night to say one word in their behalf on this question.

Mr. AYLESWORTH. I was born on the farm and lived on the farm the better part of my life, and I learned on the farm that the farmer's best friend is not the man who makes pretensions, and after the loudest fashion proclaims his friendship.

Mr. SPROULE. That is a wonderful piece of information to get from the Minister of Justice at this late hour, but I do not think it will satisfy the farmers around Stouffville who desired to get telephonic connection with the Bell Telephone Company and the railway stations. I do not think the farmers will be satisfied to learn that their representative here has not to-night said one word in their behalf. I will leave it to them to settle with their member when he goes back to them.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. The Minister of Justice has done better than to say 'a word' for the farmers; he has done something for the farmers.

Amendment (Mr. Maclean) negatived—Yeas, 20; nays, 52.

Amendment (Mr. Emmerson) agreed to.

Subsection 2 agreed to.

Mr. ALCORN. We have heard a great deal about the necessity of protecting the Bell Telephone Company in the cities, towns or villages where there is competition. I propose an amendment with reference to the proprietors of rural telephone systems, as follows:

That the following subsection be added as subsection 3:

Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained this Act shall apply to enable any corporation or person operating a rural telephone system to procure in manner, upon the terms and subject to the conditions prescribed by this Act, connection and interchange of traffic with any other rural or other telephone system.

Section 25 is confined to 'province, municipality or corporation.' Many of these rural systems are not incorporated and I see no reason why a person or a number of persons owning such a system should not have the same right to come to the board and secure connection with the Bell Tele-