

Q. Around that date?—A. I do not think so, sir.

Mr. CAMPBELL: February, 1933.

WITNESS: I have here the file of correspondence between the radio commission and the Manitoba Telephone System speaking for the three western provinces, and these quotations were all made in the early part of 1933. The final quotation is dated February 17, 1933. It is signed by Mr. J. E. Lowry, Commissioner, and a further one signed by all three of the heads of the western provinces: Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, dated February 2. They are essentially the same.

By Mr. Campbell:

Q. Did you make any offer or suggestion to them?—A. We wrote to them in the first place; I did not do it, but the radio commission did.

Q. But after those quotations were in?—A. No; I do not believe so.

Q. You let the matter rest there?—A. I do not believe there was any letter written directly to them asking them to change their quotation in any way.

Q. I mean as a matter of negotiation? (No response.)

By Mr. Bertrand:

Q. Do you know the reason why the Bell Telephone Company did not co-operate with the prairie companies in 1933 to make a bid for all Canada?

Mr. CAMPBELL: They did.

WITNESS: As a matter of fact, we understood, sir, that the bid of the Trans-Canada company did include the western provinces as such.

By Mr. Bertrand:

Q. You said you had a bid from the three prairie provinces?—A. In February, 1933, for that part of the country running through Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta only.

Q. Do you know why the Bell Telephone Company did not join in the bid for Ontario and Quebec?—A. We have here a quotation from the Trans-Canada in which they bid for the entire circuit across Canada, and we understood that it was an amalgamation or co-ordination between the various telephone interests in Canada whereby they were prepared to give that service across the country, and we understood that the Trans-Canada bid included service over the three western provinces insofar as their services might be available for the Trans-Canada System.

By Mr. McIntosh:

Q. What date was the total bid?—A. It is not exactly a total bid.

Q. What was the bid for telephone business across the country as far as you know?—A. The first quotation was on January 11. Then there was a letter written to them asking for further information, and there was some addition on January 17. Then we wrote again asking for further information and the final figures were given to us on January 25, as far as I know.

Q. The idea was instituted in January? (No response.)

By Mr. Bertrand:

Q. How did the last figure compare with what you were paying? I understand that in 1933 you paid \$275,000?—A. After I came into the picture in March I went into the matter very carefully and prepared a resume of all quotations made, together with a certain number of recommendations, and that resume was presented to the radio commission for their consideration. I cannot