

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

mittee and placed at the disposal of the municipal and other public bodies in the Dominion.

This convention is strongly of opinion that the time has arrived when the long-distance telephone service should no longer be operated as a monopoly for private gain, and that this service should be owned and operated by the Federal government under conditions which will enable every telephone user to have unrestricted intercommunication between all local systems now in operation, or which may be hereafter established.—Carried unanimously.

**No. 255.**

To the Honourable Sir WILLIAM MULOCK,  
Chairman of the Telephone Committee,  
and Members of the House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada,  
in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the County Council of the County of Bruce, humbly sheweth:

That in the opinion of this council the time has arrived when the telephone systems of the country should become national institutions under the management and control of the Post Office Department. Every private or company owned institution is conducted with a view to profit, and it follows, as a matter of course, that the Bell Telephone Company, which is virtually a monopoly, must charge high, if not exorbitant rates, for the services rendered, in order to produce dividends for the stockholders. That there should be no tax on knowledge is a recognized principle of government in this country, and it is upon this principle that our postal service is not expected to produce a revenue. There is a close parallel between communication by mail and communication by wire, and if one should be maintained at the bare cost of operation, why not the other? We would, therefore, urge upon the Dominion government the importance of assuming as speedily as possible the management and control of the telephone business of the country, believing that if the idea of profit were eliminated, the cost to the public would be materially reduced, and as a natural consequence this means of communication brought within the reach of a much greater number of people. And the clerk is hereby instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to Sir William Mulock, Chairman of the Telephone Committee now in session at the House of Commons, Mr. P. H. Mackenzie, member for South Bruce, and Mr. L. T. Bland, member for North Bruce.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

WM. MACDONALD,  
Warden.

W. S. GOULD,  
Clerk.

**No. 256.**

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE RE TELEPHONES.

COUNCIL ROOM, SARNIA, ONT., June 13, 1905.

To the Warden and Councillors of the County of Lambton:

Your committee appointed to prepare an answer to the circular from the Hon. Sir William Mulock, beg leave to report as follows:—

1. The system in use is that operated by the Bell Telephone Company, and there is no other in use in the county.

There are seven different exchanges in the county, viz.: Sarnia and Point Edward, 400 subscribers; Petrolea, 150; Forest, 50; Oil Springs, 17; Watford, 17; Brigden, 10; Alvinston, 1; Sombra, 2; Inwood, 1. Total of 648 subscribers.

There are other telephone stations connected with the system in the county, as follows: Camlachie, Ravenswood, Aberarder, McCormicks, Wyoming, Oil City, Marthaville, Florence, Edy's Mills, Courtright, Weesbeach, Bunyan, Osborne.