

With the Columbia Co.'s system already in use, the Boundary Creek Co.'s now being put in, & the Vernon & Nelson Co.'s to follow shortly, the district will have three telephone systems competing for its business.

T. Edison, jun., claims to have solved the problem of transatlantic telephoning. By his invention he says it will not take a very powerful current to send a message across the ocean. He has taken more than 3,000 miles of wire & subjected it to the same pressure & the same conditions, as nearly as possible, as those of the ocean, & he has been quite successful. He submerged the spindle on which the wire was, subjected it to a heavy pressure, & at the same time made the spindle revolve at the rate of 10 or 12 revolutions a minute. It was found that the sounds were carried very distinctly. It has been decided that one relay station in the ocean will be sufficient; but it will not be necessary to keep a bevy of hello girls there, as messages will be resent by mechanical devices.—Globe.

A new telephone company is appearing on the scene, & is anxious that its voice shall be heard. Application has been made to the Board of Works, Toronto, from a patent company, on behalf of the inventor of the Dodge system, Post Mills, Vt., asking the Council to grant a building permit to a joint stock company, organized to take over the above system, lay wires, etc. A similar application has been made in Montreal. The amount of rivalry which might be supposed to exist in Chicago, where some of the streets are 27 miles in length, & telephones of greater proportionate necessity than in any city on the continent, does not prevent the upholding of high prices. To a business street 9 miles south of the post office, the telephone charge is \$241 a year, payable quarterly in advance. Even this charge does not include free connection with suburban points, some of which are within the city's expanded limits, extra charges of 10 to 15c. a call are made.—Journal of Commerce.

The Bell Company is proceeding to contest in the courts the assessment of \$500,000

placed upon its plant by Montreal assessors. The city's assessors estimated the value of the plant at \$500,000, which embraces conduits, poles, wires & other paraphernalia. The Co.'s solicitors have filed a petition protesting against this assessment as excessive & illegal, contending the assessors in arriving at their conclusions have proceeded upon erroneous principles, not having fixed the conduits, wires, poles & cables at their actual value as required by the charter of the city. They allege that in making the valuation the assessors have valued the whole of the conduits, poles, wires & cables as a going concern, & have improperly & illegally considered the same in connection with the exercise of the Co.'s franchise, & in connection with the value of the whole line operated by the Co. throughout the different wards of the city, & even outside of it, & considered the value of telephonic line regarded as a complete system, & the business value of these articles to the Co. as part of the means whereby it exercises its franchise, or their income producing value, whereas by law & by the terms of its charter, the franchise of the Co. cannot be taxed by the city of Montreal as real estate, nor can any portion of the Co.'s property be taxed, carrying with it any corporate rights of the Co. They proceed to state that the assessors in appraising the actual value of the conduits, poles, wires & cables under the terms of the Quebec statute could only tax the property itself, separate & distinct from any other property of the Co., & disassociated from the rest of the system of which it formed part. Finally, they state that the actual value of the conduits, poles, wires & cables does not exceed \$75,000, consequently they ask that the assessment be reduced from \$500,000 to \$75,000.

Among the Express Companies.

The Dominion Ex. Co.'s money orders are payable at all offices of the Maritime Ex. Co.

LeB. Coleman has been appointed Route Agent of the Canadian Ex. Co., in charge of

New Brunswick lines, with headquarters at St. John, N.B.

The Dominion Ex. Co. has offered a reward of \$2,500 for information which will lead to the conviction of the person or persons who broke into the office at Joliette, Que., Aug. 14, & stole a quantity of valuables.

The merchandise rate between North Sydney, N.S., & all points reached by the Newfoundland Ry. Ex. is \$2 per 100 lbs. In addition to rate to North Sydney, from there to destination, graduate and charge as per general classification on 50 lbs. or less; over 50 lbs., 2c. a pound. C.O.D.'s may be accepted at classification card charge. The Newfoundland Ry. Ex. will not handle money.

The B.C. Ex. Co. recently broke all previous records in quick transit, over the Cariboo road. An express left Barkerville at midnight on Monday, & reached Ashcroft at 2 a.m. Thursday, having covered the 285 miles in 50 hours. The actual time was considerably less than 50 hours, as the driver had to lay off at Soda Creek for 6 hours, & at other points along the road time was lost in changing horses, etc.

The Alaska Pacific Ex. Co. gives notice of the following winter service to Dawson City-Tariff between Puget Sound ports and Dawson:

Merchandise, \$2.50 a pound; minimum charge \$2.50.

Money, currency or gold, 2%; minimum charge \$2.50.

Letters, \$1 each.

Money Orders, 2%; minimum charge \$1.

The Co. will make special trips during the winter to Dawson & return, the frequency of them depending largely upon the volume of business offered for shipment. Shipments must be accompanied by certified invoices in quadruplicate. Duty will be assessed at frontier port, & will average about 35% ad valorem. The duty, & all charges on merchandise shipments, forwarded during the winter, must be prepaid by the shipper. All shipments accepted subject to delay & at owner's risk of freezing.

THE HUNTER, ROSE CO.,
All kinds of... Limited.
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OFFICE STATIONERY
AND ACCOUNT BOOKS
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FINE TOOL STEEL
For Railway Purposes
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W. G. BLYTH,
Agent for Canada,
29 Melinda St., - Toronto

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The franchise embraces the whole of the C. P. R. System, including all branches and leased lines, comprising 7,178 miles of railway, 690 stations, and a number of ticket agencies and hotels.

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BRANCH OFFICE:

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