

the Bell Telephone company, why he went out of his way to point out the evils of a dual telephone service, and why he was so enthusiastic in his praise of the Bell Telephone service?

"All this happened before Mr. Brown became leader of the Liberal party in Manitoba, but while he was competing for the reform, and one would have expected that having accepted so responsible a position, he would have risen to the dignity of his office and dealt with important public matters more seriously, if not more consistently. It is however, more difficult to throw away bad habits than to acquire good ones, and we find Mr. Brown in his first speech as leader of the Liberal party, in Selkirk hall, Winnipeg, still maintaining the double part of a supporter of public ownership and an opponent of the Bell Telephone company, for he states in speaking of that corporation:

#### Lukewarm on Public Ownership

I have for years been an ardent advocate of this principle, believing that municipalities should own their own waterworks, electric light and other franchises, (he is careful not to say telephones) and that any profit derivable therefrom should go where it belongs, to the people.

His latest policy is that he would deprive the people of that profit. Referring to the 'Bell' he says:

It is useless to deny or ignore the fact that the Bell company is strongly entrenched within the province of Manitoba and is giving on the whole fairly satisfactory service. There is, so far as I am aware, little complaint and no outcry on that score.

Here again Mr. Brown shows his affection for the Bell monopoly, for I can hardly conceive any man not interested financially in the operations of that concern making a public statement that 'it is giving satisfactory service' and that 'there is little complaint and no outcry against that corporation'.

"It is a fight for the gods to see this political Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde advocating public ownership and endorsing the Bell Telephone company at the same time, and finally charging this government with insincerity. On this occasion also he stated:

He would assert, however, that at the proper time such a scheme would be submitted and that an essential part of this scheme would be that there would be no debenture debt necessitated, in so far as either the municipalities or the province were concerned.

"I would ask Mr. Brown today to explain how he proposes to carry out the policy, which he has just announced to construct a complete provincially owned telephone service without necessitating a debenture debt so far as the province is concerned.

"The truth is, Mr. Speaker, that this ambitious politician was so insincere that he outlined a policy, knowing at the same time he had not made up his mind what that policy was to be, for we find that in the Free Press of June 27 last he is reported as stating at a meeting in Carman that:

"The policy of the Liberal party upon the question will make it possible for the farmers to have telephones of their own without creating any debt, and apart from the first charge, which will not exceed \$25, the charge for operation will not exceed 50 cents a month."

"How does this policy compare with that for which the Liberal executive stands today?

"What do you think, Mr. Speaker, of the leader of a political party who stated in June last that the farmers can obtain telephones at a first charge of \$25 and that the charge for operation will not exceed 50 cents a month, and who for the past three months has encouraged his party henchmen to stamp this province telling the same farmers that it is absolutely impossible for this government or the municipalities to install telephones in rural districts at a first cost of \$100, and rent them at \$1 per month; and yet this is the man who accuses this government of insincerity in its telephone policy? What does Mr. Winkler say as to these statements?

"It is now open to Mr. Edward Brown to prove to the farmers of Manitoba that they can obtain telephone service at a first cost of \$25, or go down to poverty as an insincere politician, or admit that he was only trying to humbug. Perhaps his allies and friends, the monopoly, will help him out of the difficulty.

"During the past eight months this quick change artist has announced three separate telephone policies. He has made so many changes that the Free Press has stopped reporting his utterances. I do not propose to refer further to the first two, but to deal with his latest announcement, which is as follows:

"The Liberal party declares emphatically in favor of complete government ownership and operation of telephone system in the province, believing this to be the only practical solution of the question of coping with the existing monopoly."

This policy, which, by the way, cannot be carried out without the creation of a debenture debt by the province,