

APPENDIX No. 1

that the companies owning the trunk lines now do. Independent companies would be operating all over the country, and the farming community could then have telephone service at a reasonable rate. It would allow competition to step in and regulate prices. Farmers must have cheap telephone service, as the average farmer cannot pay more than \$10 per year. On our lines we are getting 50 per cent of the farmers, and if the cost was \$15 or \$20 per year you could not get 10 per cent. In the township of Sophiasburg the 'Bell' Company charge \$20 per year and have only one subscriber, whilst we are charging \$10 per annum and we have 125 subscribers, and orders for more. So you see it is necessary to give cheap service to farmers, and yet there is no class of the community that require the telephone more than the farmers. Hoping your labour may result in good for the people of this county,

I remain, yours, &c.,

SPRAGUE TELEPHONE COMPANY,

Per JOHN A. SPRAGUE, *Pres.*

No. 225.

The Hon. WILLIAM MULOCK,
Postmaster General,
Ottawa.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK,

WELLAND, ONT., June 13, 1905.

SIR,—By resolution of council of the county of Welland I am instructed to forward you the inclosed report of the council, setting forth their views, as requested by communication received from you *re* 'the telephone service.'

Yours respectfully,

ROBERT COOPER,

County Clerk.

No. 225a.

To the Warden and Council of the County of Welland :

GENTLEMEN,—Your special committee appointed to consider the communication from the Postmaster General *re* telephone service, beg leave to report as follows.—

Telephone service in this county is entirely by the Bell Telephone Company, whose charges are too high and hours too short in villages and towns. Service is not good in the rural municipalities, there being on many lines too many subscribers. There are also many complaints as to lack of promptness in service. Rates were increased recently and time of communication shortened from five minutes to three minutes. Were service improved and rates lowered on both long and short-distance service, list of subscribers would be largely increased. Residents in rural municipalities would greatly appreciate good telephone service.

Port Colborne and Welland subscribers on one side of canal are charged five dollars more for service than subscribers on the opposite side per year. The telephone company's excuse being because of cable across the canal, which they must have in any event. The placing of wires, whether above ground, in cities, towns and incorporated villages, should be entirely under the control of the municipality, as well as the placing of poles in rural municipalities.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. HARRISON PEW, *Chairman.*
CHAS. HENDERSON,
J. K. HENDERSON,
C. E. STEELE.

Certified a true copy.

ROBERT COOPER,
County Clerk.