

General Telephone Matters.

Rossland, B.C., has given a franchise to the Columbia Telegraph & Telephone Co.

In Moncton, N.B., 26 telephone instruments were burned out during a thunderstorm on July 19.

The business of the Bell Telephone Co. at Brockville, Ont., has increased rapidly lately, 6 operators being now employed.

In the Imperial House of Commons, Aug. 1, the telephone bill passed its 3rd reading with only 20 dissentients. It continues the franchise of the present company until 1911.

On July 24 poles were reported as being up for 10 miles on the new Brunswick Telephone Co.'s extension from Moncton to Buctouche, & it is expected to have the work completed during Aug.

Winnipeg City Council has authorized a committee to make the best terms possible with the Bell Telephone Co. to carry on the fire alarm system until the city is ready to take it over in about 6 months' time.

The Western Union Telegraph Co. & several other companies, have brought suit against the American Bell Telephone Co., under the Western Union-Bell contract, in which they seek an accounting in stocks & dividends amounting in the aggregate to about \$10,000,000. This suit not only directly affects the A.B.T. Co., but also all its sub-companies' stock & holdings.

S. L. Dakin, Beaver Harbor, N.B., & others are applying for incorporation under the N.B. Companies Act, as the Penfield & St. George Telephone Co., capital \$2,000, headquarters at Beaver Harbor, to establish telephone communication between St. George & Black's Harbor, Penfield, Penfield Ridge, Bonny River, Le Tete Harbor, Mascarane, Back Bay & West Isles.

T. T. Bailey, Portage la Prairie, Man., is said to have received intimation from the Bell Telephone Co. that a petition from Portage la Prairie, asking for the establishment of a long distance system, has been favorably consider-

ed, that estimates will be made of the cost & probable revenue, & if these are favorable the work will be proceeded with between Winnipeg & Portage la Prairie, with a possible extension to Brandon & other towns.

Prof. A. G. Bell is reported to have explained in a lecture how he came to invent the telephone as follows:—"My father invented a symbol by which deaf mutes could converse, & finally I invented an apparatus by which the vibrations of speech could be seen, & it turned out to be a telephone. It occurred to me to make a machine that would enable one to hear vibrations. I went to an aurist, & he advised me to take the human ear as my model. He supplied me with a dead man's ear, & with this ear I experimented, & upon applying the apparatus I found that the dead man's ear wrote down the vibrations. I arrived at the conclusion that if I could make iron vibrate on a dead man's ear I could make an instrument more delicate which would cause those vibrations to be heard & understood. I thought if I placed a delicate piece of steel over an electric magnet I could get a vibration, & thus the telephone was completed. The telephone arose from my attempts to teach the deaf to speak. It arose from my knowledge, not of electricity, but as a teacher of the deaf. Had I been an electrician I would not have attempted it."—Electrical World.

Among the Express Companies.

The B.C. Express Co. reports business as very fair.

D. C. Jackson has been appointed Superintendent of the Alaska Pacific Ex. Co., with headquarters at Skagway, Alaska.

W. M. Gordon has been appointed Route Agent of the Dominion Ex. Co., with headquarters at Winnipeg, with charge of all offices between Moose Jaw, Assa., & Fort William, Ont., inclusive, & all intermediate branch lines.

R. E. Helme has been appointed Route Agent of the Dominion Ex. Co., with head-

quarters at Nelson, B.C., vice A. Devitt resigned, with charge of following territory: all offices on main line of C.P.R. west of Moose Jaw, Assa., to & including Revelstoke, B.C.; Edmonton branch; Macleod branch; Lethbridge branch to & including Kootenay Ldg.; all offices south of Revelstoke, B.C.

F. G. McKay has been appointed Route Agent of the Dominion Express Co., with headquarters at London, Ont., vice R. E. Helme transferred, with charge of following territory: all offices on C.P.R. between Galt, Ont., & Detroit, Mich., inclusive; Ingersoll branch; Lake Erie & Detroit River Ry., & the following stage routes: between Galt & Hespeler; between Galt & Waterloo; between Ayr & Brantford; between St. Thomas & Aylmer.

On July 27 Acting Chief of Ontario Police Mains arrested, at Niagara Falls, A. Nixon, who gave St. Catharines as his residence, & J. Chrysler, who gave his residence as Allandale, but claims he has been teaching school at Elmsdale the past year. He is well known at Niagara Falls, & it is alleged that he has a criminal record. The two were charged with conspiring to defraud the Canadian Ex. Co. It is stated that they signed an order at Niagara Falls & forwarded it to the St. Catharines agency, to forward any money package from St. Catharines to Port Robinson. To this, the charge is, they signed the fictitious name of C. N. Hutton. The sequel to this was a check for \$200, supposed to be forged on the Bank of Commerce, Collingwood, made in favor of C. N. Hutton & signed, in supposed forgery, with the name of G. Logan, there being, it is said, over \$300 in that bank in favor of G. Logan, which has been, it is said, advertised as unclaimed. When the bank received the check, purporting to be signed by Logan, with a request from "Hutton" to forward the money to St. Catharines, the bank authorities handed the matter over to their St. Catharines agency, the arrest of Chrysler & Nixon following. The men were brought before the Police Magistrate at Niagara Falls, & were committed for trial.

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