

office. Shortly after this Government came into power, these people were dismissed without the slightest justification, and two farmers and fishermen, who had not any more knowledge of telegraphy than I have, were appointed. How they got along, I do not know, but Providence intervened and broke the cable. With the cable broken, there was very little for them to do, and they have got along nicely up until now and are drawing handsome salaries. It was a case of the cable be darned and let the farming go to the dogs while they drew their salaries in this way. That is the situation exactly. Whether telegraphy grew into their heads without their receiving any instruction, I do not know, but there they are, and the minister can see them there any day in the week.

Telegraph and telephone lines—British Columbia mainland—further amount required, \$2,200.

Mr. CARVELL: Surely British Columbia ought to have been satisfied with what they have already received this evening.

Mr. REID: This is a small amount.

Mr. CARVELL: What is it for? Eight or nine thousand is a small amount for British Columbia.

Mr. REID: This is for increases in the salaries of those who are receiving less than \$1,200. This increase is made on account of the high cost of living, and the operators are getting small pay.

Mr. CARVELL: On what principle are the tolls from rentals based in the telephone system in British Columbia? Is it the same as in Nova Scotia, or have they a modern system where people can rent a telephone, as in other parts of Canada?

Mr. REID: The only information I can give the hon. gentleman is that given in the official report.

Mr. CARVELL: There is nothing in that.

Mr. REID: The information in this book is as follows:

Kamloops-Okanagan Valley System
(Telephone).

Local and through rates, 25 cents to 60 cents, according to distance between offices 100 miles apart or over, in stretches of 50 miles:

Where message rate is 25c. for 10 words, 2c. for extra words: conversation 10c. per minute.

Where message rate is 25c. for 10 words, 3c. for extra words: conversation 15c. per minute.

Where message rate is 40c. for 10 words, 3c. for extra words: conversation 20c. per minute.

Where message rate is 50c. for 10 words, 4c. for extra words: conversation 25c. per minute.

Where message rate is 60c. for 10 words, 4c.

[Mr. McKenzie.]

for extra words: conversation 30c. per minute. Minimum charge for messages, 25c.; for conversation, 15c.

Mr. CARVELL: That is for telegrams.

Mr. REID: No, this is the Kamloops and Okanagan telephone system.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Any charge for listening?

Mr. REID: Fifteen cents per minute in some cases. Then we have the rates for the Salt Spring Island telephone system as follows:

Local rate—Conversation, 2 minutes, 25c.; each additional minute, 15c.

Through rate—The above line connects with the B.C. Telephone Co. at Duncan Station. The company's tolls are added to the above rates on through business.

Conjoint rate—between offices on the above island and offices on the C.P. line, on government line reached by the C.P. telegraph on Vancouver Island, 25.2.

Then there is the Golden-Windermere telephone line:

Local and through rate, 25.2.

Subscribers for telephone at \$36 per year are exempt from above tolls for messages.

Mr. CARVELL: If a man rents a telephone, and pays \$36 a year, he has the long distance thrown in.

Mr. REID: No, he can only telephone on that exchange. Then the Vancouver Island line:

Local rates between offices, 25.2.

Conjoint rate between offices on government line and C. P. telegraph line on Vancouver Island, 25.2.

Through rate, business exchange with Canadian Pacific telegraph at Nanaimo and Victoria, same as local rate, 25.2.

Mr. CARVELL: I was asking as to whether the same system prevails in British Columbia as in Nova Scotia. It seems to me that, in Nova Scotia, only a favoured few can obtain telephone, and practically there is no rental at all, as I understand it. They pay a certain rate for a distance beyond the main line. The telephone is put in a man's place of business, and that is the sort of public place where business comes. But there is no such thing as rental as known in the telephone world. Does that condition of things obtain in British Columbia, or are there rentals?

Mr. REID: In British Columbia it is the ordinary telephone system. They rent the telephone.

Mr. CARVELL: What is the rental?

Mr. REID: In British Columbia \$36 a year.