## Cheap Telephones for Eanners of Alberta MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS RINGS THE DEATH KNELL OF MONOPOLY-A TELEPHONE TO BE NO LONGER A LUXURY RESERVED FOR THE RICH AND THE EXIGENCIES OF BUSINESS, BUT A CONVENIENCE WITHIN THE MEANS OF EVERY HOME

Policy of the Conservatives Submitted to the Inexorable Test of Time .--- "This province has been invaded by a monopoly that causes all other combinations of that nature to dwindle in comparison, a monopoly possessed with a charter the Act of a Conservative Government at Ottawa, passed in the year 1880. An Act which I have no hesitation in branding as the most pernicious and iniquintous piece of legislation that has ever been perpetrated upon any people that have any claim to freedom. This Act empowered the Bell Telephone Company to build, establish, maintain and operate telephone lines upon any of the highways or streets of this Province and the other Provinces in Canada without any permission from the authorities who are supposed to have control of the thoroughfares. Thus, Mr. Speaker, did a Tory Government see fit to give the Bell Telephone Company the most extraordinary Charter that was ever granted by any Parliament in the world for such a purpose. This Conservative Administration gave the Bell Telephone Company a monopoly over this whole country, ALLOWING THEM TO PLACE THEIR POLES WHEREVER THEY CHOSE." Transmittiner and there will be seen

The Constructive Statesmanship of the Rutherford Administration .--- When the Government undertook to conduct the business of this part of Canada, it believed, and still believes, that if it has any function at all, it is to protect the people of this province from such monopolies, and at the very commencement of its career as an Admiristration introduced such legislation as would enable the people of Alberta to keep out of the clutches of the Bell Telephone Company before this Corporation had secure 1 a firm foothold in the Province."

The government of Alberta has House I would like to make a few on the address from the throne. It / Municipal telephones in Great Briproved its courage, and its advanced observations in regard to this sub- is true that at one time there was fain and other countries in Europe

position in the all-absorbing public ject. question of this generation. With a Judging from some reports that appeared in the opposition press the united following behind him, and the reporter seemed to have received the opposition shouting their plaudits of impression that the government was approval, the Hon. W. H. Cushing, not prepared to answer the question minister of public works in the oneminister of public works in the one of the hon. member for Victoria, and year-old administration of the Prov. that he had been a little rash in makince of Alberta declared yesterday ing this inquiry when he did. I just afternoon that the government had wish to say on this point that the accepted the principle of public owngovernment is pleased that the quesership and operation of telephones in tion has been asked, and the reason its entirety. The government had why it was not answered at once was crossed the Rubicon in this matter. not because the administration did and burned their bridges behind them. There would be no retreat, nor well defined, as the decision of the not have its telephone policy pretty slackening in the struggle until the government had been arrived at in monopoly which the speaker stigmaregard to it. It was thought as this tized as the most pernicious and inwas one of the most important matiquitous monopoly that had ever ters that the government and the legbeen foisted upon a people claiming islature would have to deal with it to be free was forced to relinquish its would be better for the government tightening grip. Amid applause that to consider the matter again before shook the House and even spread to announcing to this House and to the the visitors in the galleries the mincountry what the future policy of the ister eloquently declared that the administration would be government's dictum to the telephone nonopoly was, "So far shall you go, PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

and no farther." I have said, Mr. Speaker, that this In the course of his speech the is a very important question, and I minister of public works traced the think, sir, that I cannot emphasize

operations of the Bell Telephone com- this too strongly. I have looked upon

avrailway monopoly in this country, but that day has gone, or nearly so. In the very near future there will be or the advancement of the country ness, so that the statement of my hon. friend from Rosebud loses some of province has been invaded by a monopoly that causes all other combina tions of that nature to dwindle in comparison, a monopoly possessed with a charter the act of a Conservative government at Ottawa, passed in the year 1880. An act which I have no hesitation in branding as the most pernicious and iniquitous piece of legislation that has ever been perpetrated upon any people that have any claim to freedom. This act empowered the Bell Telephone company to build, establish, maintain and operate telephone lines upon any of the highways or streets of this province and other provinces in Canada without any permission from the authorities who are supposed to have control of the thoroughfares.

TIME TO CALL A HALT. Thus Mr. Speaker, did a Tory govate rural lines DIFFICULTIES OF RURAL 'PHONES.

The reason for this is that many three or four railways operating in than if it could, be said of Alberta, of the smaller municipalities do not this province, competing for busi as it is everywhere said of Sweden, feel able to undertake the operation that the isolation of the farm is abol- of their own system owing to the ernment. ished and good telephones at low nature of the work requiring as it its strength in connection with the rates placed within easy reach of does expert help, which a small exmatter of railways. But, sir, this every class of household. We de- change would not be able to provide, sire, Mr. Speaker, to benefit the agri- and in rural districts difficulties Bell Telephone company. This coradvantages that will result from the tricts, one portion of the community introduction of a system of rural desiring to avail themselves of this threatened to establish themselves in telephones throughout Alberta. No service and willing to pay for it, the city against the will of the city greater boon could be bestowed on while another part do not want it... the farmer than municipal tele- or it may be that it would not be ary franchise granted by the Dophones, and what I have said of the practical to have it put in. The tiller of the soil extends with equal community that does not want it, or government was going to establish force to the citizens and users of the cannot have it, will naturally not exchanges in towns where the citivillages. not get any benefit from. BELL COMPANY OPPOSE FARM-GOVERNMENT'S DECISION.

ERS' TELEPHONE. The Bell company has always been Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the govwere no telephones in farmers' hous- that in order to make a success of the that in dealing with their own they ible by a total eclipse. s in the entire United States and undertaking it must largely control were paternal, but outside the city Canada-none on this continent. The all the telephone business of the pro- with others they were a soulless correason of this is not far to seek, the rural telephone business has not In adopting a national telephone

thusiastic support from not only the ] the government that the peoeple of members of the House, but from the High River would support them. The people everywhere. In rural districts explosion against the monopoly had the people want the telephone and been tremendous. He hoped that the results would be, as large. the only feasible scheme to accord

this privilege and necessity was con-E H RILEY struction and operation by the gov-

E. H. Riley (Gleichen) said he un-There was no doubt that the govderstood this province was the leader ernment would meet with determined in telephone legislation and he conand vexatious opposition from the gratulated the government on the manly stand they had taken against ulturist and create means by which would arise, in fact have already poration claimed extraordinary pow-the farmer will obtain the business cropped up in local improvement dis-ers and startled the city of Edmon-called the bloodsucking corporations. ton when the other day the company The government ownership of telephones was a live issue in the Gleichen campaign, and the declaration for a policy for the people had contriuted in no small measure to the minion charter. He was glad the return of the government candidate He represented one of the best rural districts in Alberta and knew how the telephone in the cities, towns and wish to be taxed for what they can users desired it. It would be a good people would look upon this deliverthing for his own town of Fort Sasance from the heel of the monopolkatchewan. Even municipalities were ist, He would like nothing better not above criticism in handling telewhen it was necessary to appeal to phones outside of the municipality the people than to carry the banner pposed to furnishing farmers with a ernment in the early tenure of our itself. He referred to a mayor not of cheap telephones in which battle service. Eleven (11) years ago there office have arrived at the conclusion far from here who stated publicly the opposition would be made invis-

## MR. HEIBERT

of the Bell Telephone company. They

as the government could grant a

charter to any other telephone com-

railway monopoly was broken by the

presence of three railway systems in

the West. Mr. Hiebert contended

that there never had been any rail-

way monopoly since the people of

poration. C. Heibert (Rosebud) took exception The member for Victoria was glad to the remarks of the minister of pub en anything like as incrative a pro-system, our aspiration, therefore, in that the government had adopted a

NORTHWESTERN The circuit of the N ball League for this pleted at a session of it the various clubs held a The niceting was of fashioned New England men got down to busin useless formalities. As cuver was admitted a The in the circuit. was represented by tion, and they came of necessary money to ba plication, and Manager the meeting as evidence 911 this team. the fol'owing teams: Se Graves Harbor, Buite, Vancouver

SPO

The Bel Ingham appli taken up, and after a it was decided to grant visional franchise on to be decided at an adjou the league this mornin Bellingham is the in between Vancouve and least a certain number of will be given the Bay C season. It's the Salt Lake City and H tions intere fabled, as it the time is not yet ripe mission of those cities t which, as it is now form the strongest in the west BASEBALL HOT AIR F

GARY (Thursday's Da George J. Wardell, who third base for Calgary, Melford, Mass., and is n "jim dandy" guardian of cult corner, but can base and the outfield in He has been identified Cleveland American league years, also with the Lowell and league team, under management last season. He has also played with Fawiusket, Taunion, Manch 0.0, Carter's of Franklin, and Woysock, and also teams, and has references ball players. He is 24 years old, 5 feet

in height and weighs about The terms have been contract mailed. D. J. McConnell, pitcher, fielder for Tuft's College h Medford, Mass., was coached Tenney, .blayer and manage Boston National league team He has also pitched wit for the Waterville, Maine, sta team, and other fast teams in in'ty and his work was alwa wo-thy.

Man ge Thyne is also dicks R. B. Thomas, catcher of I It., who played with the Br versity team of Providence, who has pleved in the New S ate and Nor h rn Lcague . feet 11 1-2 inches and weig wo hundred pounds, and ha

He is recommended by Me

from its incorporation in 1880 this matter, and every member of ernment see fit to give the Bell Teleby the Dominion government, until the government has viewed it in the phone company the most extraordithe present time and showed that the same light, that the introduction of nary charter that was ever granted city or town is. Present rates are is to serve the people and to benefit ince. The aim would not be like a did not hold an absolute monopoly whole aim of private management is the principle of public ownership of by any parliament in the world for dividends and not service. The re- the telephone system in this province such a purpose. This Conservative sult of this policy was few telephones was the most important step the gov- administration gave the Bell Telefor the rich and only when the urg- ernment has taken and would have, phone company a monopoly over this for the rich and only when the urg-ency of business made them a neces-sity. The government wished to pro-tration believing it to be instifiable ency of business made them a neces- a far reaching effect. The administration believing it to be justifiable place their poles wherever they chose. main) a luxury for the few, supplied telephone business to surplice by a rich monopoly? Or shall the the public good. vide such a modern convenience of and in the best interests of the peo- Why, sir, speaking of the absolute life to every class in the community ple of Alberta are prepared and will' powers of this company, only recently and were determined to make the take their stand on this principle. In the government at Ottawa appointed system as successful in Alberta as it giving their adherence to this policy a commission to inquire into a dishas proved in other countries. The this government will be known as a pute that had arisen between this government will strike a deadly constructive and progressive adminis- company and its employees, and blow at the monopoly by establishing fration. what do we find? That the govern-

long distance and trunk lines, which NO MORE DIVIDENDS ON WATER-ED STOCK. A great deal has been said and security against competition It will

go further. It will establish rural A great deal has been said and telephones, a project which the Bell' more has been written as to what company never would undertake. In governments should do in regard to addition it will conduct and estab- monopolies-as to the method to ther. lish municipal exchanges, where the adopt in controlling and regulating them. Commissions of various kinds municipality desires.

The statement of the minister was have been appointed and searching occasioned by a question that has inquiries have been prosecuted. Hanbeen on the order paper by the mem- sard has been filled with discourses ber for Victoria, Mr. F. A. Walker. more or less eloquent in regard to it, lieves, that if it has any function at that it is possible for us to build It is safe to say that no such advance but sir, I think the house will agree ed position has ever been taken by | with me that very little has been acany government in Canada, and that complished towards providing a rem-Alberta leads the continent in this edy. Monopolies continue to flourish respect. The action of the govern- and tighten their grip on the vitals ment will associate the name of the of the nation. They continue to filch minister of public works with an from the long suffering people of our epoch making era in Canadian his. country large profits on watered tory and place him among the most stocks to swell the bank account of courageous and capable of Canada's the foreign millionaire. It is well known that the aniversal method adbublic men. The minister is anye to the difficulties in his way, but opted in the formation of corporations he is a statesman of cool, calculating, is that a large amount of the stock. that goes into it is what is called mathematical precision that has counted the cost, and knows he can watered stock, and in this the Bell Telephone company is a great transand will win.

gressor. One of the chief reasons for It was inspiring to see the unanimthe high rates imposed by the "Bell" ity of the House in their denunciapeople is on account of over capitalions of monopoly, and was eloquent- ization. I noticed in one of the Winnipeg ly expressed by the member from

determined to prove their faith in their heritage by more than word of nature display a strong aversion to

mouth. When the House convened at three o'clock there was an air of enthusiexpectancy. The House knows ments in the West had not paid. I Mr. Cushing never speaks except to do not think the people of Western say something. The order paper was Canada are anxious for this company cleared until Mr. to make investments that do not pay. perfunctorily Walker's question was called by Mr. I believe that the people of this pro-Speaker :- What is the government's vince, at least, are willing and able policy in regard to telephones? All to manage their own affairs in this eves turned to the minister of public connection without any assistance works, who rose, amid applause. from the Bell Telephone company. THE SPEECH.

A PERNICIOUS CHARTER CON-

position that the service in a large conjunction with the municipalities, paternal policy for the whole provalso prohibitive as regards the popu- them in every way. It is a national private corporation to vile up a surlar utilization of the telephone for policy, a new progressive and inspir. plus and pay dividends .\* watered anything but urgent business. The question is: Shall the tele-

artisan and the farmer possess this greatest of modern utilities, operated at the cheapest rate compatible with

efficiency. 500 MILES TELEPHONE LINES NEXT YEAR. With that end in view at the last session of this legislature, legislament is politely informed that this

company does not intend to be govtion was enacted that made it poserned by this commission. Is it not time, sir, that the people of this sible for the people of this province to own and operate their own telecountry should tell this monopoly that so far shall you go and no fur- phone system, the government to provide the long distance service or trunk lines, and in this connection

PROTECT THE PEOPLE. we have already commenced and When this government undertook have nearly completed a line between o conduct the business of this part | Calgary and Banff. Contracts have of Canada, it believed, and still be- been let for poles and wire for all all, it is to protect the people of this this year. We propose to construct province from such monopolies, and 400 or 500 miles between Edmonton at the very commencement of its and Lloydminster and between Edcareer as an administration intro- monton and Calgary. Thus, Mr. duced such legislation as would en- Speaker, we are the first government able the people of Alberta to keep in this Dominion to plan govern-

out of the clutches of the Bell Tele- ment owned telephone poles and inohone company before this corpora- augurate a system that will be govtion had secured a firm foot hold in | ernmentally controlled. Our policy the province, by entering into and will mean that a few, high priced conducting their own telephone busi- telephones for the few will have to give way to many low priced tele, CORPORATION'S SECURITY phones for all. PUBLIC OWNERSHIP SUCCESS-

AGMNST COMPETITION IN TRUNK LINES. FUL IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. During 'the Dominion telephone in-The government realized that it was quiry in the year 1905, the fact was venturing on a very serious under-

demonstrated very clearly that the taking, and desired to move slowly, ownership of the long distance lines so that any steps that might be taken by the Bell Telephone company was would not have to be retraced. Al.

We take our stand for the people with every confidence that the step this government has taken will meet. with tthe entire approbation of the people of Alberta in this national policy of public ownership of the telephone system in this province. Then to summarize, Mr. Speaker, the policy of the government is: (1) To own and operate all the long distance or trunk lines; (2) to own and operate municipal exchanges where desired by the municipality; (3) to construct, own and operate rural telephones.

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F. A. WALKER.

back the government to a finish. STAND FOR THE PEOPLE. MEMBER FOR WETASKIWIN. A. S. Rosenroll, member for We- Manitoba broke it in 1889. In that taskiwin, was delighted with the min- year the C. P. R. lost the right to ister's exposition of the government's hold an exclusive charter. "So we

policy because it was the first shot have been free since 1889," said the fired at monopolies in Alberta. The member or Rosebul. But this fine Bell company were attempting to in- statement was entirely nullified by vade after the city had let the con- the inconsistent argument advanced tract for a new system. This was a in his closing remarks when he debold attempt to undermine and ruin clared he did not consider the railmunicipal enterprise in the province. way monopoly was/broken at all and The people will support the govern- hoped the government would wake up ment and he hoped the policy against to the settlement of the transportathe monopoly would be carried out tion problem as fully as they had to with an iron hand. He prophesied the solution of the telephone and an iron hand. He prophesied the solution of the telephone prob-

unmerciful treatment for monopoly. lem. The government could tax them and ATTORNEY GENERAL CROSS. give powers to the municipalities to tax them out of existence. He called Attorney General Cross said it was the attention of the House to the very gratifying that the leader of the stand Mr. R. B. Bennett had taken opposition and his colleague had in 'the old territorial legislature. The taken the stand they had upon this Calgary lawyer wished to give still important question. He congratulat greater privileges to the Bell com-ed the opposition and the party they pany. He introduced a bill to rerepresented. It meant a united atstrict the height of the polies the titude against a great corporation. company could erect in the streets. The government will need the united He was glad to say that Mr. Bensupport of Liberals and Conservanett and his bill had been defeated. tives. The opposition were well ad-He related the history of the Bell vised and he congratulated them that company in Wetaskiwin three years they were going to cut out the past ago. The town had asked for telethe Conservative party and were phones, and when refused decided to going to start afresh. install a municipal system. In one There have been leaders of the opweek the Bell peeople were on the position before in this country who spot and had the poles erected. The took the same attitude upon this people were in the fight with the govquestion. There was not a province ernment and would enjoy it. in the Dominion where this question

Mr. F. A. Walker, Liberal whip,

Red Deer who said the news would be flashed with joy over the wires to every part of Canada, and shot from the Marconi towers to all the world that the people of Alberta were determined to prove their faith in Speaker, that corporations of this ple more arrogantly than if there was presentative institution, such as this, the government policy in this, im- and sympathy with the policy of the move for a government-owned and presentative institution, such as this, a long distance service independent of, and out of the control of that corporation. The opinion of the government is that the only way you can regulate a monopoly of this nature is to enter Australia, in New Zealand and I do fact, in the whole Dominion. It was opposition was not to criticize only, ince. Last session the government into competition in order to insure not see why it should not succeed the first step to actual public owner- but to encourage and commend and introduced a measure whereby the to the people low rates and a proper here and after a thorough investi-service. From the evidence in the gation and full consideration of this Canada in the matter of telephones: the noble-words of the member for The attorney genera

The attorney general gave a short reports of the inquiry conducted by matter the government have arrived At the Speaker's dinner a few even- Calgary: He did not know why it history of the incorporation of the the Ottawa government, it is shown at the decision that in order to make ings ago it was said the east expect was necessary, however, to trot out Bell company and their methods in that the movement in the United a success of this venture; in order ed something unique in the way of the Conservative ghosts of the past., the East. The company was incor-States, arising from competition, has to complish the end that was con-resulted in an immense extension of the government's policy by the ber there would be a scattering of following year the act was amended Mr. Speaker, in answering the use of the policy of the Alberta government in connection with tele-phones, with the permission of the phones, with the permission of the policy of the Alberta phones, with the permission of the policy of the Alberta phones, with the permission of the policy of the Alberta phones, with the permission of the provinces of his remarks/ in the debate for the debate phones and build and oper termination in the debate for the course of his remarks/ in the debate for the de

known Other men Manager Thy

ing after is Pinkerton, th stop of the Bildeford, Me. reason: and Talhot, the outfielder of last year's eam, whom a few Ne estern league managers an' Manager Thyne wil' pro heir John Haycock's attache gary contracts before th

g doud BASEBALL Baseball experts in New Yo that Pitcher Joe McGinalty is

Pitcher Larry Hesterfer h Toconto contract calling for month. -----

Larry Lajoie has purchased residence in a fashionable qui

In twelve years the Filtsbur club has administered 147 soutagainst 79 received.

Manager McGraw of New Y anking on Christy Mathewso cover his 1905 form

Tickets for the baseball minstr w on sale. The reserve pla not open until March 2nd.

On May 23rd last year First Es Donahue of the' White Sox throughout an endre game wit

The Northwestern league have ed to enter into a five-year co with Spaulding Co. to supply league with balls.

Manager Thyne is negotiating Jerry Nops, the former Nationa gue southpaw pitcher: and if . secure his signature to a cor Calgary will have one of the be anded pitchers in the business .-

Manager McGraw, of the New Nationals had better hustle McC Matthewson, Bowerman, et al bomb proof cellar, or Manager will be rounding them up and f them to Calgary as well.

Province. That the talk of the eague invading Vancouver, Bu okane in addition to trying Seattle, 'is not taken seriously Northwest was evidenced yesterd the remarks of the delegates at 0.11

shave-dell who will play third Galgary, had a try-cut wih the and American League team last son, but when it is taken into con ation that he has the famous Bill ley to beat out for a place at base, it was no wonder that h turned back to the New En league. He should prove a star i eague, and manager Thyne feel led that Wordell will be drafte one of the big league at the clo Our playing season.-Albertan. algary manager stays in the much longer there will be nothing a bunch of has-beens left for the eague teams. who has been signed by Calgary

very heavy hitr, according v heavy hiter, according derald. Last year he was around ,300,

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