

Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton are the only cities which have adopted the system, and I understand the Board has well and efficiently served the interests of the people in all three cities.

I would also refer you to the Local Municipal Telephone Act, passed in 1968, providing for the construction and operation of telephone systems by municipal corporations and the extension of them into other municipalities.

Here again we bring in the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board and provide that it shall give the necessary advice and help to the municipality in the construction of the line and the conduct of its business, and a Provincial expert on telephones is at all times available for the purpose of rendering assistance.

But the most important Act under this head is the Public Utilities Act of last session, passed at the urgent request of a number of municipalities. Its chief object is to provide for the election by the people at large of one Commission to manage and control all the public utilities of the corporation, thus effecting concentration, centralization, and making for efficiency of service. Heretofore there has been a separate Commission for each public service. While the Mayor is *ex officio* a member of the Commission, the Council has no jurisdiction over the acts of the Commission, the only function of the Council being to supply the money necessary for the carrying on of the services. This is not government by Commission as so understood, and I say nothing to-day on municipal government by Commission except that as yet there has been no call for any such legislation. I believe one municipality did attempt to make such provision for itself by way of a private bill, but it was withdrawn before reaching the committee stage.

In addition to the above general Acts, every session there are upwards of one hundred applications to Parliament for special legislation by way of Private Bills affecting only a particular municipality. It may be for authority to borrow money without the assent of the