

The Cornwall, Ont., Standard, speaking of an examination recently held by the County Judge there, says: "The Dundas Telephone Co. was organized nearly 6 years ago, & quickly spread over nearly the whole of Dundas county, extending into several adjoining counties. The organizers were enthusiastic, & the people were excited over the prospects of opposition in the telephone business. But the end came quickly, & the whole concern collapsed like a bubble, in Aug., 1895. Since that time the members of the Co. have been before the courts to settle who shall finally bear the liabilities of the concern, amounting to away up in the thousands of dollars. The result has been more than one law suit without final issue. The present examination has been on for over a year, & it is not considered likely that this will bring the matter near a completion. The costs are heavy & the whole affair is a significant object lesson."

A correspondent asks: "In telephonic communication is it the machine & not the actual voice that is heard? Or is it not the voice itself that is heard through the medium of the machine?" In telephonic communication, the sound waves produced by the voice of the speaker cause the diaphragm of the transmitter to vibrate. These vibrations have the same period as the waves of the voice. The vibrations of the diaphragm cause the electric current through the line to vary in the same periods. The variation of the electric current sets the diaphragm of the receiver into vibration, and this vibration is received by the ear of the listener as sound. The voice is not transmitted. A current of electricity is transmitted through the line. A voice could not be heard from Chicago to New York. It is, however, very wonderful that the vibrations of the diaphragm of the receiver reproduce the qualities of the voice of the person speaking so perfectly that the person can be recognized by the reproduced tones.

The Wire & Cable Co., Ltd., has been incorporated under the Dominion Companies Act, with a capital of \$500,000 & headquarters in Montreal, the incorporators being C.

F. Sise, R. Mackay, C. Cassils, R. Archer, H. Paton, L. B. McFarlane & C. P. Sclater, all of Montreal, nearly all of whom are connected with the Bell Telephone Co. The primary object of the Co. is to manufacture & deal in apparatus, etc., for telephone, telegraph, light, power, railway, cable, hydraulic or compressed air companies, but it is given very extensive powers to engage in other branches of business.

#### Among the Express Companies.

The U.S. Ex. Co. has located a soliciting agent in Toronto.

The Western Ex. Co. has reopened its summer route to Mackinac Island.

The Canadian Ex. Co. has opened offices at Edwards, Ont., Jonquiere, Que., & Whitebread, Ont.

The Canadian & Dominion Co's have both recently placed large orders for enameled iron signs for their general as well as their money order business with the Acton Burrows Co., Toronto.

In the Dominion Ex. Co. R. Helme has succeeded A. Devitt as Route Agent, with headquarters at Nelson, B.C. F. H. McKay has been appointed Route Agent at London, Ont., succeeding Mr. Helme.

The following changes have been made in the Canadian Ex. Co.: W. T. Anderson, Superintendent of Money Order Department, is appointed Assistant Treasurer, vice A. Maxwell assigned to other duties. W. H. Bryce, Assistant Auditor of Money Order Department, is appointed Superintendent of the same, vice W. T. Anderson transferred.

The White Pass & Yukon Ex. Co., Ltd., has been incorporated under the B. C. Companies Act, with a capital of \$100,000 and head office at Victoria. The Directors are A. C. Flumerfelt, W. Wilson, H. M. Hills, & J. H. Greer. The primary object of the Co. is to do an express business over the White Pass & Yukon Ry., but it has very general powers to extend in any direction.

Since June 19, the Canadian Ex. Co. has been running a special train 6 days a week between Niagara Falls & Montreal, which it calls its special fruit flyer. Niagara Falls is left at 1.30 p.m., 12 stops are made at fruit points and Toronto is reached at 8 p.m. After a stop of 10 minutes the train leaves for Montreal arriving there between 5 and 6 on the following morning, so that early delivery of the fruit is made. During the strawberry season the Dominion Ex. Co. ran a special train between Toronto & Montreal, leaving Toronto in the evening & reaching Montreal early the following morning before the passenger train. The putting on of these special trains has been caused by the impossibility of handling the largely increased fruit shipments on the regular passenger trains without delaying the latter, and shows how largely the fruit traffic has grown.

Assistant Secretary Spaulding of the U.S. Treasury, has made a ruling on the application of I. M. Clarke, of Port Huron, Mich., representing the American Ex. Co., for the privilege of consolidating consignments of goods intended for transportation to Canada, for the purpose of making a single entry & giving a single bond on all such shipments made within one week. Such a practice, if allowed, would greatly reduce the expense to the express companies, but the Department believes that it would be detrimental to the interests of the Government. Mr. Spaulding is willing, however, to make a concession from the letter of the regulations heretofore in force, & has forwarded the following instructions to the Collector: "After inquiry into the practice at other ports on the frontier, and careful consideration of the matter, the Department declines to authorize the consolidation in one entry of consignments covering a period of several days, as proposed by the applicant; but perceives no objection to the inclusion in one entry & bond, for immediate transportation & exportation to Canada via a common port, of all merchandise arriving on the same date & train, or other conveyance, consigned to one party, but destined for two or more places in Canada."—Express Gazette.

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Agent for Canada,

29 Melinda St., - Toronto

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