

\$4,421,208; reserve for insurance, \$689,809; surplus, \$130,604; total, \$41,840,638. It was decided to increase the number of directors to 15. The retiring directors were re-elected and W. S. Webb and E. Hawley were elected to fill the new positions. G. G. Ward, Vice-President, speaking of wireless telegraphy, said he had every confidence in the ability of the submarine cables to maintain their supremacy in competition with wireless telegraphy, even should it extend beyond its present experimental stage.

The agreement giving the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. \$80,000 towards the erection of a station in Canada for sending messages across the Atlantic, in return for certain rights has been ratified by the Dominion Parliament. It provides among other things that any lighthouse in Newfoundland is to be deemed a part of Canada for the purposes of the agreement, and that when the Co. is asked to do so it must provide at lighthouses or life-saving stations a complete installation, or the Government may do so, the Co. being bound to supply the apparatus free of royalties. Such stations, when established, may be used for receiving and despatching messages from and to vessels, each party collecting for its own benefit whatever charges may be made, but the Co. is not bound to accept messages in the United Kingdom for transmission to U.S. points via Canada. A site for the station has been selected at Tablehead, near Glace Bay, N.S., and a contract placed with Rhodes, Curry & Co., Amherst, N.S., for the erection of the buildings.

General Telephone Matters.

A new telephone office is being built at Canning, N.S.

The Bell Telephone Co. recently declared the usual quarterly dividend of 2% payable April 15.

The Bell Telephone Co. has a bill before the Senate to increase its capital to \$10,000,000 in order to extend its system.

The plant for the N. B. Telephone Co.'s new exchange and offices at St. John, N.B., is being installed (Mar., pg. 116).

Crofton, B.C., is being connected with the telephone system of Vancouver island. W. J. Johnson has charge of the work.

The Independent Telephone Co., operating in Victoria County, Ont., is arranging to extend its system cuts Eden and Thorah.

The Bell Telephone Co. has reached an agreement with the town of Sudbury, Ont., to establish an exchange with a long-distance connection.

The Boundary Creek Telephone and Telegraph Co., B.C., has given an absolute bill of sale to the Columbia Telephone and Telegraph Co., for \$3,985.

Application is being made for a charter under the Quebec Companies' Act, for a company to be called the Telephone Co. of La Petite Nation, with head office at Cheneville, Que.

The Victoria and Esquimalt Telephone Co. is stringing cables on its system as far as possible, in order to do away with single wires, 25,000 ft. of cable having been imported for this purpose.

A movement has been started at Stony Creek, near Hamilton, Ont., for the establishment of a local telephone system. J. B. Davis is secretary of the committee having the matter in hand.

The North Bay, Ont., town council has decided to take a vote to decide whether an agreement should be entered into with the Bell Telephone Co., or a local system at \$10 a year should be installed.

At the recent annual meeting of the Valley N.S. Telephone Co., the retiring board of directors was re-elected. The capital has been increased to \$100,000.

The Rat Portage, Ont., town council's agreement with the Citizens' Telephone and Electric Co. for the purchase of the Co.'s undertaking, was ratified at the recent session of the Ontario Legislature.

R. T. Hamilton, heretofore local manager for the Bell Telephone Co. at Owen Sound, Ont., has been appointed Assistant District Manager at Guelph, Ont. He is succeeded at Owen Sound by C. Wildern, of London.

The Kamou-Tem Littoral Electrique, which has been incorporated by the Quebec Legislature, has power among other things to operate telephone lines in the counties of l'Islet, Kamouraska, Temiscouata and Rimouski.

The New Brunswick Legislature has passed acts incorporating the M. Welch Telephone Co. (Ltd.), to do business in Carleton County, and the Union Telephone Co. (Ltd.), to do business in York, Carleton and Madawaska Counties.

C. Hancock, who had charge of construction in connection with the Bell Telephone Co.'s improvements at Brockville, Ont., has been given a similar position at Winnipeg, Man. He is succeeded at Brockville by R. W. Leach.

The Bell Telephone Co., in return for a five years' renewal of the present lease, will give Orillia, Ont., business telephones at \$20; house connection at \$15 on a ground circuit; and house and business telephones for \$35 a year on metallic circuit.

The Luther Telephone Co. is being organized, with a capital of \$1,800, to construct a telephone line from Grand Valley to Monticello, Dufferin county, Ont., a distance of 12 miles. A rate of \$10 a year is quoted. Dr. Campbell, of Grand Valley, is President.

A. T. Andrews, W. Williams, M. Wilson, T. L. Morton, R. Galloway, J. W. Armstrong and D. Smith, of Gladstone, Man., are applying for incorporation under the Manitoba Companies' Act, as the Gladstone Electric Light and Telephone Co. (Ltd.), with a capital of \$5,000.

By-laws will shortly be voted on in Fort William and Port Arthur, Ont., providing for the establishment of a local telephone system. The proposed charge is \$24 for business telephones and \$12 for house connections, but the committee claims it may be reduced to \$20 and \$10 respectively.

The Eastern Telephone Co., of Nova Scotia, has issued a circular giving notice that all contracts will be terminated on June 1, and that new contracts will be submitted for signature at new rates adjusted to meet the altered conditions. The new rate for phones in residences will be \$25 a year.

The Vernon and Nelson Telephone Co. proposes making extensive improvements on its lines in the Phoenix, B.C., district. A metallic circuit will be provided, a new main line built on Upper Dominion Avenue, and a new building provided. A number of old lines not now in use will be taken down.

There is being installed in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, a complete telephonic system by which all the 400 rooms can be connected with each other as required, and connection made with the city and long distance systems. The rooms are to be connected with a switchboard in the hotel, and a connection will be made with "Central" as required.

The Minister of Agriculture recently stated in the House of Commons that there were 55 telephone companies in Canada, of which 44 are in operation, 25 in Quebec, 7 in Ontario, 6 in Nova Scotia, 5 in New Brunswick, 8 in

B.C., 2 in the Northwest Territories, and 1 in P.E.I. The total telephone mileage in the Dominion was 113,294, of which the Bell Telephone Co. owns 94,314 miles.

The Farmers' Electric, Water and Telephone Co. (Ltd.), of Cardston, Alta., has been organized with a capital of \$50,000 to operate a telephone system, etc. The officers are: President, J. W. Woolf; Vice-President, J. A. Hammer; Secretary-Treasurer, M. Woolf. Other directors, A. Archibald, M. Spencer, S. Malkin, T. H. Welford, of Cardston; V. I. Stewart, of Mountain View; and F. Leavitt, of Leavitt.

O. W. Rogers, New York city, has been visiting Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and other places in Ontario on the telephone question. He claims to be in a position to establish a cheap system and has offered to install telephones at \$18 a year for business places, and \$12 a year for residences in Toronto; and for \$15 and \$10 a year respectively in Hamilton. He is endeavoring to organize a company in Canada.

The Ottawa City Council has decided to invite offers for installing a telephonic service capable of serving 4,000 subscribers at a rate not exceeding \$20 a year, the service to be equal to that given by the Bell Telephone Co., the new service to be in operation by April, 1903. Ottawa is at present served by the Bell Telephone Co., but the agreement expires in April, 1903, and the citizens recently voted in favor of a corporation-owned telephone service.

Some years ago a telephone line subsidized by steamship agents and merchants was constructed from Halifax, N.S., to Sambro, with pay stations at Ferguson's Cove, Chebucto Head lighthouse, Herring Cove, and Sambro. There is very little local work, and as the annual subsidy from the shipping men is about to expire it is feared the line will be closed down. As the line is mainly used for reporting vessels, an effort will be made to secure a vote for maintenance from the Department of Marine.

E. Ducretet, a French electrical engineer, claims to have invented a system for telephoning without wires. He says: "The transmitter and receiver are much like those in daily use for the ordinary telephone. There is the difference that a small coil is introduced, and the electrical intensity is slightly increased. When the instruments are put down deep in the earth messages can be transmitted over enormous distances. Voices are transmitted without the least difficulty, and the most delicate articulations reach the ear."

In an action brought against the Bell Telephone Co. by the Toronto city council, Judge Street recently decided that the Co. has not power to erect poles and string wire thereon within the city boundary without the consent of the city council. The Co. contended that the Dominion charter under which it operates overrides and nullifies the act of the Ontario Legislature which gives municipalities complete control of its streets. The Judge held that the Dominion act incorporating the Co. was simply a re-enactment of the original act of incorporation, and did not expressly provide that it was no longer subject to the provisions of the Ontario act. The Co. proposes to appeal against the decision.

The bill "Respecting Telephones" introduced into the House of Commons by W. F. Maclean, M.P., has been laid over for a year after having been referred to the committee on railways, telephones, etc. Some of the principles in the bill were objected to by E. F. Clarke, M.P. for West Toronto, on behalf of a number of municipalities. A bill introduced on behalf of the Government was also laid over for a year. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Fitzpatrick, stated that the Government