

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

No. 100a.

Resolution No. 3.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,

SIMCOE, Ont., June 5, 1905.

Moved by George J. Ryerse, seconded by Charles Mason, That the municipal council of the town of Simcoe recommends, the full ownership and operation of all telephone lines by the Dominion government, and that the clerk be requested to reply to all necessary questions in connection with the communication from the Hon. William Mulock.

ROBERT E. GUNTON,

Mayor.

No. 101.

BRIGHTON, Ont., June 5, 1905.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G.,

Chairman Select Committee on Telephone Systems.

SIR,—In reference to your letter of May 29, asking for information regarding different telephone systems, &c., within this municipality. The Bell Telephone has an agency here and have 23 subscribers. They charge \$15 a year for both business and resident 'phones, and \$30 a year for desk 'phones; the instruments in use in most cases are not satisfactory for long-distance conversations, that is over 25 or 30 miles, but answer very well for local conversations.

We also have the Wade Telephone Company, whose lines run north into the country and cover 50 miles altogether, they have only four subscribers in town, their 'phones are not suitable either, for long-distance, their charge is \$10 a year with no extra charge for conversations on any part of the system. They have a central office here, but no connection with the Bell Telephone or any other trunk lines and are therefore under a great disadvantage.

We also have within the municipality about 30 independent 'phones, most of which were made by the American Telephone Company of Chicago, and are the best 'phones in use here for local conversations, and, as far as they have been tried, for long distance. They cost about \$10 each complete, that is with batteries, arrestors and switch. They have no central office, but nearly every one who owns an Independent 'phone, has expressed the desire to be connected with a central exchange if they could also have a connection with the Grand Trunk station. Plans have been under way for some time with a view of forming an independent company, and will be completed as soon as the Railway Commission dispose of the question of compensation.

This council, like many other councils, believe it will be of the greatest advantage and convenience to the public if the government would take over the trunk lines and the different municipalities the local lines and operate them in connection, with uniform rates and no discriminations.

As to the rural telephone systems, they have passed the experimental stage, and are found to be good paying investments if run properly, a great boon to the farmers who have them and would be much more so if they could get connections with the main trunk lines, but so far, owing to the opposition of the Bell Company who control most of the trunk lines, they have been unable to do so.

Yours truly,

TOM C. LOCKWOOD,

Clerk.