

than a corporation. Careful investigation may alter the belief and later judgment may reach conclusions widely different from the first impressions; but it must be remembered that there are many who will not give the subject the careful analysis it deserves, and whose final conclusions are apt to remain those at which they first jumped.

Municipal ownership of the telephone business may or may not be a good thing. However, I wish to direct the attention of this Association to the fact that it is becoming a live issue, and further that the time to meet that issue is not when it has reached its full force, but rather while it is in its infancy. If municipal ownership is not desirable, this is the time to determine that fact and to prepare to combat it. If it is desirable and the movement needs only guidance into right channels, now is the time to apply that guidance. The problem is of serious import; it offers a fruitful topic for general discussion.

It is now more than a year since several of our larger Independent Telephone companies (competitors of the Bell) secured a ruling from the Dominion Railway Board covering the point of physical connection for Long Distance purposes, and while this ruling is not as satisfactory as it might be, still it is a beginning of a rational form of governmental supervision, which will give permanent security to investors, and full protection to the public.

These questions and many others have produced in our business many conditions which did not exist a few years ago. The conditions change just as rapidly in telephony as they do in any other branch of the industrial world, and the telephone man who does not adapt himself to the swift moving events of the day will find himself outclassed. We should endeavor therefore, to use all our power to see that all laws affecting public service corporations are fair.

Carlyle has declared that "Heresies are long lived" and Plato hinted that an erroneous statement, if repeated often enough and with sufficient emphasis, is generally harder to disprove than to establish what is actually the truth. Since our last meeting a statement has been issued in pamphlet form describing the workings of the Municipal Telephone Act as applying to the Municipal Telephone System of the Township of Rochester, under date of December 1st, 1911. I do not wish to be understood as criticising the operation of Municipal Telephone Systems, as a whole, but as this report was published as a guidance for other municipalities about to embark in Municipal Telephone work, I feel it my duty to warn municipalities against being captivated by the idea that their telephone system can be operated and maintained for one or two dollars per year as outlined in this report. It is but fair, however, to state that this pamphlet has been withdrawn from circulation, due no doubt to the unfavorable comments made about it. I might note, on the side, that I have been credibly informed that Rochester during the present year is making an extra annual assessment of Three Dollars per telephone to meet operating and maintenance charges. Few would think of starting out to build a railway or trolley system, but anyone will readily tackle a telephone system, as it looks so easy and so few realize how quickly it runs into money.

After this had been adopted, the President suggested that the resolution committee and the nominating committee immediately be formed and start work at once, so that those present might discuss the resolutions thoroughly.

The following resolutions were moved and passed by the Convention:

Moved by P. R. Craven, and seconded by F. W. James:—"That this Association petition the Government of Ontario to so amend the Telephone Act, that when an Independent Telephone Company cannot arrange terms with the municipality for the use of the street and roads of the municipality, that the matter be referred to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, who shall have jurisdiction to hear both parties, and grant permission on such terms as it considers fair." Carried.

In introducing this resolution Mr. Craven stated that his Company (Temiskaming Telephone Company) was forced to agree to pay the municipality three per cent. of its gross receipts and maintain the Fire Alarm System of some Towns in the North before they could obtain a Franchise; whereas the Bell Telephone Company in its Dominion Charter, could enter any of these Towns and compete with the Company unconditionally.

Moved by S. L. Squire and seconded by A. F. Wilson:—"That in order to protect Telephone Companies operating under Franchises granted by municipalities, the Municipal Act should be amended by making Clause 566, Section 4, applicable to the Telephone business and that Section 3 of the Ontario Telephone Act be made subject to the Municipal Act so amended, and that the legislative Committee of this Association be instructed to take steps to secure legislation to the foregoing effect, including townships, municipalities, and having regard to the Telephone Systems of the companies, as a whole undertaking." Carried.

The intention of the resolution is in cases where Municipal Telephone Systems, established under Part 1, or 2 of the Telephone Act, in order to avoid competition, this municipality should endeavour to purchase at a fair price the existing systems, which would otherwise be paralleled.

Moved by A. Denholm, and seconded by F. S. Scott:—"That the Dominion Parliament be asked to enact that when a Telephone Company with a Dominion Charter enter into a contract with a system within the Jurisdiction of the Province of Ontario that the company shall at once come under the jurisdiction, rule and regulations of the Ontario Railway Municipal Board, in so far as the said switching agreement is concerned and as it relates to the interchange of service between systems within the jurisdiction of Ontario." Carried.

Moved by F. W. James, and seconded by P. R. Craven:—"That in view of the fact that the Special Committees on the revision of the Provincial Statutes regarding Assessment meets at an early date, this Convention should appoint a committee of three members of the Association, to consider the question of amending this Assessment Act in regard to Telephone Lines, and to meet the Provincial Committee to present views of this Convention on the question." Carried.

Moved by F. W. James, and seconded by F. S. Scott:—"That in view of the fact that the present system adopted by the railway companies in demanding the execution of agreements in regard to railway crossings necessitates considerable unnecessary delay in completing construction, that the Dominion Railway Board be asked to take such steps as will remedy this matter." Carried.

The election of officers resulted as given in the heading.