

Q. They did?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Campbell:*

Q. By the word "bid" what do you mean?—A. Perhaps it might be just as well to refer to the actual correspondence. I have here three letters from the Bell Telephone Company speaking on behalf of the Trans-Canada system. These letters are dated January 11, January 17 and January 25, 1933. In each one of those letters the terms are forwarded to us with words as follows:

MONTREAL, January 11, 1933.

On the basis of the rate schedule now developed, we have pleasure in furnishing the following quotations for the various networks outlined in your letter.

That letter is signed by Mr. P. A. McFarlane, Chairman, Trans-Canada Telephone System.

MONTREAL, January 17, 1933.

Dear Mr. WEIR,—Replying to your letter of the 12th instant.

The quotations furnished with our letter of January 12th included the cost of a telegraph circuit connecting various stations on the network.

Other details are given. That letter also is signed by Mr. P. A. McFarlane, Chairman, and was written on the Trans-Canada Telephone System letter paper.

MONTREAL, January 25, 1933.

Dear Mr. WEIR,—This is in reply to your letter of January 17th, requesting the additional cost of adding certain points to the quotations furnished in my letter of January 11.

On the basis of the same number of daily hours service as quoted in the main estimates, the quotations are as follows:

That letter is signed by Mr. P. A. McFarlane, Chairman, and was written on the letter paper of the Trans-Canada Telephone System.

Now, I think we have a perfect right, in view of those three cases, to assume that what we were getting were actual quotations, and that is the way they were treated.

*By Mr. Campbell:*

Q. Is that a similar way to the way in which the telegraph companies quoted?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. McIntosh:*

Q. Were sealed tenders asked to be delivered at a certain time at a certain point to be opened at a certain hour?—A. That practice was not followed in connection with this particular work.

Q. I think that practice should have been followed? That is where much of your trouble has taken place. (No response.)

*By Mr. Bertrand:*

Q. In this case you found out it was more convenient for the radio commission to split the contract with the wire companies. Was there a difference in price in favour of the wire companies?—A. The difference was not so much in price as it was in the service that the wire line companies, the two telegraph companies, were prepared to give us.