

toba is going to adopt the policy of government ownership of telephone lines ?

Mr. BOLE. I did not state that the provincial government of Manitoba were going to adopt that policy. I think that the government which should adopt that policy is the Dominion government.

Mr. BLAIN. Might I ask the introducer of the Bill if the important changes that were made in the Railway Committee have been printed.

Mr. TURRIFF. Yes, and the printed Bill has been distributed; you will probably find it tacked inside the original Bill.

Mr. FOSTER. It does not seem to me that the member for Winnipeg has given sufficient reasons as to why the committee should rise and report progress. His object seems to be to have the government take hold of the matter and, as far at least as the trunk line service is concerned, perform that service. If his purpose in moving that the committee rise is to bring that about, it would seem that we ought to have some expression from the government as to whether they feel favourable to that; otherwise we may, as the hon. gentleman who has last spoken (Mr. Turriff) has suggested, be depriving large portions of the country of the benefit of a competitive telephone system, and at the same time not be advancing the cause that the hon. gentleman has at heart. So far as my information goes, I should be disposed to question the reliability of the report made by a commission in San Francisco as interpreted by the hon. gentleman. It ought to be presumed that they would know what they are reporting about; but so far as my information goes, it is not true that all or a majority of the independent telephone companies in the United States of America, have been financial failures. I think it is true that within the last eight or ten years independent telephone service in the United States of America, commencing at zero point, is at present in a greater condition of development and has more phones than the Bell Telephone system of the United States of America—at least if they have not more, they have about an equal number, and are operating them to-day in every part of the United States of America. One great difficulty that an independent telephone company has to meet in its inception is that it does not possess any trunk lines, and consequently long distance service is made very difficult, and that is an element which has to be taken into consideration. But this Bill, so far as it can do so, if I understand it, provides that a monopoly shall not be had in long distance work, that there shall be the same interchange of message service between the different lines as there is now for instance amongst railways, that running rights so to speak can be given under a rea-

Mr. D. ROSS.

sonable toll whereby a new company can have services of the trunk line system by paying therefor according to reasonable rates. I do not like to admit the assumption that rivalry and competition tend to increase prices. It seems to me that rivalry and competition tend inevitably to reduce prices, and that therefore it is not more costly to the people who are users than if it were one monopoly. It seems to me there have not been very strong reasons given why we should defer the work of the committee on this Bill. Of course if the companies who are interested state that they would look with favour upon providing a general trunk system, or taking the whole question under government charge in this country, that would be a sufficient reason, and for my part I should be willing to vote with my hon. friend who made the motion; otherwise I do not see that sufficient reasons have been given.

Motion negatived.

On section 1,—incorporation—corporate name.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. This is amended by providing that the corporate name of the company shall be, 'The Northwest Telephone and Telegraph Company.' The corporate name now is, 'The Northwest Telephone Company.' That amendment was made by the committee.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The copy I have is marked, 'Reprinted as amended and reported by the Railway Committee,' and the name of the company as set out in the first clause is the Northwest Telephone Company.

Mr. HYMAN. I may explain that. The title of the Bill is an Act to incorporate the Northwest Telephone Company, and that will be changed before the third reading of the Bill. This is a necessary change to conform with that.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Why should that be changed ?

Mr. HYMAN. It is understood that it is to be changed. It refers to telegraphs as well as to telephones. There will be an amendment made to change it when the proper time comes on the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It gives the power of operating telegraphs as well as telephones ?

Mr. HYMAN. Yes.

On section 10,—business of company.

Mr. FOSTER. Where does the provision for the assent of the municipality come in ?

Mr. TURRIFF. In clause 19.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What is intended by the expression 'provincial and muni-