

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

COMMITTEE ROOM,
MONDAY, March 27, 1905.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock a.m., Sir William Mulock in the chair.

Mr. ALPHEUS HOOVER, of Green River, Ont., sworn.

By Mr. Maclean:

Q. You live at Green River?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is your occupation?—A. A flour miller.

Q. I believe you organized a private telephone company in your neighbourhood?—

A. I did.

Q. How many members has it, and who are the members? Roughly, giving us a little sketch of the company?—A. We started with a membership of 20, 20 subscribers, and 14 miles of line was the proposed mileage at that time. Shall I give you the points we took in in that?

Q. Yes.—A. We commenced our line at Markham village, in York county, and went eastward to Locust Hill; from Locust Hill to Green River, from Green River to Whitevale and from Whitevale to Brougham.

Q. Who were the owners of the line, yourselves, the company?—A. Yes, the 20 subscribers.

Q. And you paid for the construction and the cost of the instruments?—A. We did. We bought our poles, erected them, and gave the contract for stringing the wire and installing the telephones to a company.

Q. Well, now, is that line in existence?—A. It is, sir.

Q. Have you extended it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many miles are there now, and how many subscribers?—A. The present company have 25. We had more, but we sold a portion of our line running southward through Scarboro towards Toronto. We sold that to a few gentlemen known now as the Scarboro Telephone Company.

Q. Well, can you tell us roughly what that line cost you?—A. The 14 miles?

Q. Yes.—A. It cost us \$48 per subscriber.

Q. That is each subscriber put in \$48, then he was an owner of the company, and his instrument was paid for?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the only thing left then was the maintenance of the line?—A. That is right.

Q. And do you have a good connection with your various subscribers, one with the other?—A. Yes, we have.

Q. Satisfactory conversations?—A. Very satisfactory.

Q. Now then, who are the men in this private line? Give us some idea of their occupation?—A. There is only myself in the flour milling business.

Q. You are a flour miller?—A. Yes.

Q. How many farmers?—A. Five.

Q. Five farmers? How many business men?—A. There are eleven, including ourselves.

Q. And is there a doctor on the line?—A. Yes, there are two doctors.

Q. Two doctors on the line?—A. And two veterinary surgeons.

Q. And two veterinary on the line?—A. Yes.

Q. Are there any others?—A. We have installed other telephones, but these are the original 20.

Q. What others have you installed?—A. We have taken in at Greenwood, two miles east from Brougham, quite recently, another merchant who is also the township division court clerk, also two farmers.

Mr. ALPHEUS HOOVER.