

INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE CO. WANTS COMPETITIVE FRANCHISE

Ready to Compete With Bell or
Any Other Company and
Reduce the Rates.

"We are after a franchise, and if benefits to subscribers, to the people who pay for 'phones, will make any impression on the city council, then we feel that our offer for a franchise, which was submitted to the city council last night, should receive favorable consideration."

This was the statement made by Secretary A. F. Wilson, of the Independent Long Distance Telephone Company of Ontario, to The Advertiser today.

"You ask a 25-year franchise?" the reporter asked.

"Yes," Mr. Wilson replied, "but you will note that we have not asked, as have the Bell people, for an exclusive franchise. All we ask is that the city shall allow us to do business here in competition with the Bell Company or any other company."

Mean to Stay.

"You mean business, and intend to stay in the field?"

"We certainly do," Mr. Wilson answered. "Our company was promoted and organized at the request of many Ontario independent telephone companies for the purpose of giving them connection with one another. There are in Ontario today between 40 and 60 such companies, all of whom are going ahead with remarkable progress. A perfect chain of local companies, extending from Bridgeburg to Wardville, and nearly all of these companies have their lines constructed and are in actual operation. Within 40 miles east and southwest of London there are now 1,200 independent telephone subscribers, by whom connection with London is desired, and it is in the interest of the city that it should have connection with these companies. More than in any other way business follows the telephone. These local companies regard as vital to their interest and success that they maintain their own independent lines, which competes locally with them and which demands exclusive away in the towns and villages.

"The company has all arrangements made, and is purchasing its material to build lines from Port Hope to Windsor and Toronto, and its lines will reach London and London early in the summer."

The Local Exchange.

"The company desire to conduct an independent local exchange business in the city of London, and if any London citizens wish to enter into a local company, the provincial company will assist them financially and otherwise."

"By the offer of the provincial company, made to the city, based on the number of telephone subscribers shown in the present Bell directory, there would be a saving to the Bell subscribers over the rates charged by it during the last five years of about 15,000, and the maximum rates offered by the provincial company are at least over \$10,000 better than the Bell's latest offer made with competition in view. The fact that the Bell has offered better terms to the city is absolute proof of the benefits of competitive competition and the benefits of actual opposition must be still better."

'Phones in London.

"The Provincial Company makes a conservative estimate of being able to put in 2,500 telephones at least amongst those who have now no telephone in the city of London. The residence rates offered by the Bell Company and generally received by them in Ontario cities is so high that the residence telephone is treated as a luxury and is beyond the reach of the people whose income is limited. The low rates offered by the Provincial Company for unlimited residence service, less discount, \$14.25, is one which brings the telephone within the reach of every person who has an income of \$500 or more. In proof of this we can point to the experience in hundreds of towns in the United States. The following figures are taken from the books of independent companies in cities in the State of New York, whose population is also given:

City Independent Phones. Popul'n

Corning 1,100 13,515

Geneva 1,190 12,249

Hornell 1,344 13,259

Ithaca 1,332 14,615

As to Rates.

"The rates charged in these cities," said Mr. Wilson, "are \$30 for business and \$18 and \$15 for residence, according to the city. Jamestown, N. Y., population 27,000, in January, 1905, had 2,780; in December, 3,500 independent telephones (London, Ont., population 45,000, Bell has 2,200 telephones). These cities have also Bell systems working in competition with the independents, and in most of the independent systems has been working only about three years. The results are satisfactory to the independent companies. These facts prove that where two systems have been tried the people do not find two telephone systems objectionable—or at least find that it is the less of two evils otherwise the independent companies never could have made nor maintained the progress which they have made."

The following is a list of large cities in the United States which have competitive telephone companies: St. Louis, Cleveland, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Kansas City, St. Paul, Toledo, Syracuse, Los Angeles, Albany, Grand Rapids, Seattle, Wilmington, Trenton.

Interesting to Canadians

"The cities best known to Canadians and near the border having two telephone systems are as follows:

"Rochester—Independent company started eight years ago; has now 10,000 telephones, against the Bell's 9,000.

"Buffalo—The independent company, commencing operation in 1904, has now 15,000 telephones, against the Bell's

21,000. Population, 400,000.

"Cleveland—The Independent Telephone Company, operating six years, has 23,000 telephones, against the Bell's 23,000. Population, 400,000.

"Toledo—Which formerly had two systems, the Independent being secretly bought by the Bell Company and put out of business, immediately organized a new company, which today has as many independent telephones as the Bell.

"Detroit—Where the old Bell Company in putting the independent company out of business became bankrupt itself. The independent company is now constructing and has about 10,000 subscribers already contracted for, and when it commences to operate in May or June next, they expect to have as many telephone subscribers as the Bell Company there has after many years' operation; that is, 15,000. Population, 300,000.

What Competition Does.

"Here is a list of cities in the State of Michigan, showing how competition increases immensely the use of the telephone; through competition in getting after and creating business:

City. Population. Citizens. Bell. Grand Rapids 105,000 8,000 3,400

Lansing 18,500 1,900 1,400

Muskegon 21,000 1,300 400

Traverse City 10,000 1,400 400

Cadillac 9,000 1,011 300

Holland 8,000 883 32

The following is a list of towns in Illinois:

City. Population. Telephone before competition. Telephone now. Springfield 60,000 2,500 7,500

Galesburg 20,000 500 2,500

Ottawa 12,000 200 1,200

Dixon 9,000 1,200

Lockport 3,000 400

Wilmington 2,000 400

Bloomington 30,000 300 5,000

Independent Franchises

"The State of Indiana, with a population of two and a half millions, has 200,000 independent telephones and 55,000 Bell.

"Ohio has 250,000 independent, and the Bell, outside of Cincinnati, of which it has sole control, has 110,000.

"Iowa, with a smaller population than Indiana, has 183,000 independent telephones, against 30,000 Bell telephones.

"In Ontario, where the independents have started, the same proportions are becoming apparent. For instance, the town of Ingersoll, as shown by the Bell directory, has 230 telephones. 7 of these independent company there, has put a pole in the ground, had 310 actual subscribers, and applications are coming in all the time from those who desire to become subscribers.

"The following places have given franchises to the independents: Windsor, Peterboro, Markham, Stouffville, Bowmanville, Oshawa, Toronto Junction, Welland, Bridgeburg, Cayuga, Aylmer, Ingersoll, Norwich, Hagersville, Waterloo, Stoney, Niagara Falls, Port Erie and Lindsay. And the following have promised franchises: Port Hope, Port Hope, Simcoe and Barrie.

Objection to Two Phones.

"The objection raised against two telephones is one which is most generally raised where there has been no experience, and the objection is theoretical. Actual experience making a success of competitive systems proves that the people by their patronizing independent and local companies have expressed in the most emphatic way their appreciation of independent, popular telephoning, and that competition is infinitely preferred to a monopoly.

"Special officers of the city of New York made an exhaustive inquiry into the question of competitive telephone systems, and they arrived at the conclusion as shown in their report, that only 15 per cent of telephone users in cities where there are competitive systems at work had instruments from both companies. Of these, the report says, a great number found that they were obliged to have two telephones to meet their requirements, and that it was just as easy to have one telephone from each company as two from one company.

Same as Advertising.

"Many others, as a matter of business policy and in order to get into closer touch with their customers, use every telephone system possible, it being their desire to get people of all classes to use telephones wherever possible. This is on the same principle as those large business houses adopt who advertise in every paper which can reach possible customers, and if necessary will start a new paper of their own. There is the same necessity for two live telephone companies as there is for two live newspapers. The same objection will lie against two newspapers as against two telephone systems. If there be only one paper there is not the same energy, excellence and push used as where there are two papers, each competing for public favor and to become popular. And no one is bound to patronize two telephone companies any more than to advertise in two newspapers. A man uses one or both as he thinks it will pay him.

Advantages to the City

"Competition in telephones means that each company will do its utmost to get the largest possible number of subscribers, whereby the subscriber to each system receives much more for his money by having a greater number of people with whom he can communicate, and the cost to him of every possible telephone connection is reduced correspondingly.

"The other advantages to the city are in having an expenditure for labor of about \$75,000 to \$100,000, a new industry and a new company, which will be liable to assessment like all other companies.

"Competition in excellence and perfection of equipment and apparatus.

"Competition in rates, with reduction in same.

"Competition in courtesy and for popularity.

"Competition (with reduction in rates) in long distance business."

No Chinese Wall

In conclusion, Mr. Wilson pointed out

that in the United States the only large cities which have not 'phone competition, or have not given independent charters and will shortly have competition, are New York, Boston, Cincinnati, New Orleans and Denver.

"All we ask," he said, "is that no Chinese wall be built around London, so that we will be unable to do business in the city. We are ready to give our chances against the Bell Company."

CONDENSED LOCAL NEWS

—Mayor Judd was absent from the city today, and Ald. Scarlett was acting mayor.

—Mr. William Champion, of St. Marys, died at St. Joseph's Hospital yesterday. His remains will be taken to St. Marys for interment at 6:30 this evening.

—A number of the members of No. 10 Company, R. C. R., went to Hamilton today to give evidence in the cases of persons charged with rioting and other offenses during the recent street car strike.

—Mamie Renehan, the young woman who took carbolic acid on Saturday, is recovering at Victoria Hospital. The proprietor of the Chinese cafe on Richmond street wishes the story on Richmond street wishes the story on Richmond street.

—The funeral of the late Miss Harriett Drake, who was accidentally suffocated by gas on Saturday night, took place this morning from the undertaking parlors of Smith, Son & Clark, to Woodland Cemetery. The services were conducted by Rev. W. J. Graham, assisted by Rev. James Kennedy.

—Winnipeg is thinking of installing a high pressure fire-fighting system, and is seeking information on the subject from the fire chiefs of Canada. The city wants to know the pressure from hydrants in this city and ask many other questions which Chief Clark will answer at once.

—Miss Pauline Ivey, of this city, and Miss Norah Junkin, Toronto, were bridesmaids at the marriage of Miss Emma Junkin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Porter Junkin (Toronto), to Mr. Frank Porter Wood, which took place at the residence of the bride's parents, Crescent road, Rosedale, yesterday afternoon. Rev. Dr. Telling was the officiating minister, and Mr. Wallace Wood, Peterboro, was best man.

—William Clifford passed away this morning at Victoria Hospital. Deceased formerly was a resident of Clandeboye, and his remains will be taken to that place for interment.

—The funeral of the late Miss Mabel M. Mann took place from the family residence, 1012, corner of Evans Street, yesterday afternoon, to White Oak Cemetery. The funeral was largely attended. The services were conducted in the White Oak Methodist Church at 2 o'clock by the Rev. Mr. Jewett. The pall-bearers were Messrs. Richard B. Charles Shore, Frank Shore, John Milne, Robt. Milne and Norman McPherson.

BELL COMPANY GETS FRANCHISE

The Windsor city council at its meeting last evening granted the Bell Telephone Company an exclusive franchise to extend over a period of five years. The company pays the city \$750 a year and also gives it five free 'phones.

THE SIMPSON INQUEST.

At 1:30 this afternoon, the coroner's jury, which is investigating the death of Eva Simpson, met at the market and went in a body to view the scene of the accident—the Colborne street crossing of the Grand Trunk. They will hold another sitting today for the purpose of hearing several more witnesses.

HAD ANKLE BROKEN.

Mr. R. H. Simpson, of 699 Queen's avenue, had his left ankle broken yesterday afternoon. He was driving a load of wood around the base of a hill when the wood shifted, causing both Simpson and his father to fall to the ground. Simpson's leg was twisted beneath him, causing the fracture at the ankle.

MEDICAL SOCIETY'S NEW OFFICES.

The London Medical Association held a meeting last evening, at which the annual election of officers for 1907 took place, resulting as follows:

President—Dr. E. Seaborn.

Vice-President—Dr. W. J. Stevenson.

Secretary-Treasurer—Dr. U. E. Bateson.

The retiring president, Dr. Angus Graham, made an address, referring to the success of the society's meetings. The society holds its meetings monthly, at the Medical School, where papers on various subjects of interest to the profession are read and clinics held.

INJURED TEAMSTER DYING.

George Jones, the Horton street teamster, who was struck by the Owen Sound express at the Wellington street crossing of the Grand Trunk some time ago, is in a very serious condition. Blood poisoning has resulted from his internal injuries, and his physician fears he will die. As an action against the Grand Trunk is contemplated, Mr. J. A. Faulds, barrister, acting for the family, today applied for and secured an order from a judge to have the evidence of Jones taken, to be used in the action.

"A NIGHT OFF."

Probably no other attraction has in some time created the widespread interest that is shown in "A Night Off," for, besides being a benefit performance for Victoria Hospital, it has the additional prestige of being reported as first-class by its numerous participants. An artistic success is being anticipated. The seat sale will open at 9 a.m. tomorrow for both evening performances. No seats will be reserved for the main performance until Saturday morning. This matinee is arranged especially for children, and a special price of 25 cents for those under 15 years is sure to bring a large attendance of little folks.

The experiment of paving the roads with straw has been tried with success by the farmers in Western America. Every autumn the roads are covered with dust, which, after the heavy rains, becomes thick mud, making travel hard for man and beast. After straw has been laid on the main thoroughfares to a depth of a foot or more traveling becomes easy.

NAMES ARE ADDED TO VOTERS' LIST

Judge Macbeth Allows a Number
of Appeals—Many Were
Refused.

His Honor Judge Macbeth has handed down judgments re appeal of voters for the municipal election in January. A large number of appeals were dismissed, but the following, being allowed, the names have been added to the list:

Edward Bowers, 17 Carling Block.

Benjamin Cunningham, 727 Queen's avenue.

A. Campbell, 95 Byron avenue.

T. J. M. Dougherty, 193 Dundas street.

Clarence B. Edwards, 460 Piccadilly street.

Thomas W. Elliott, 135 Emery street.

Arthur Evans, 77 Edward street.

Wm. P. Fessenden, 33 Craig street.

James B. Freeman, 822 Richmond street.

C. W. Forrest, 512 Maitland street.

R. G. Fisher, 124 Dundas street.

T. Fitzgerald, 207 Clarence street.

Andrew Ferguson, 22 N. Saunby street.

Wm. J. Goodland, 38 Paul street.

F. B. Gidley, 103 Bruce street.

H. Harris, 9 Watson street.

H. H. Hays, 94 Wharmham street.

Margaret Hoy, 372 Lyle street.

B. Howard Higgins, 208-16 Dundas street.

D. S. Hamilton, 423 Dufferin avenue.

Charles Hilbourne, 165 Albert street.

Augustus Iken, 110 Wilson avenue.

John Jones, 74 Maitland street.

John Jones, 320 York street.

Thomas H. Murray, 987 Princess avenue.

Thomas Martin, 283 Dufferin avenue.

Abraham Murcott, 38 Beaconsfield avenue.

Ray Marr, 170 Clarence street.

W. J. McMillen, 807 Chesapeake street.

John A. McGregor, 242 Queen's avenue.

John G. Mackay, 128-6 Dundas street.

Frederick Nicholls, 918 Lorne avenue.

William Pollock, 183 Richmond street.

Harry Rose, 517 Nelson street.

James Rudy, 737 Kensington street.

B. H. Swift, 161 Tecumseh avenue.

R. G. Schrieber, 92 King street.

Wm. and J. Sawyer, 736 Lorne avenue.

John W. Scott, 76 Edward street.

C. H. Tune, 304 Princess avenue.

C. H. Walker, 23 Briscoe street.

C. Walker, 214 Wharmham street.

Jacob Qwig, 435 Grey street.

The following are struck off the list: W. J. Wright, Richmond street.

Margaret Hevey.

Charles Kilbourne, 165 Albert street.

The following appeals were allowed to stand over: Benbow Alford, 383 Grey street.

Norman Graham, 876 Thames street.

Robert Mason, 176 Grey street.

John McMurphy, 242 Queen's avenue.

UNDERWRITERS' WARNING

Send Out Their Customary Circular
About Danger of Fire.

The Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association has sent the following circular to city clerks, fire chiefs and other interested parties through the Dominion:

"Following our usual custom at this season of the year, I beg to call your attention to the dangers to life and property from Christmas decorations, displays, etc., which are frequently made at this time of the year. The use of Christmas greens, harvest specimens and other inflammable materials as decorations, and the like, especially in connection with electric lighting systems, is decidedly an increase of hazard, it being impossible to make displays of that nature perfectly safe.

The third statutory condition of every insurance policy reads in part as follows: "Any change material to the risk, but within the control or knowledge of the assured, shall void the policy, as to the part affected thereby, unless the change is promptly notified in writing to the company or its local agent."

In addition to the danger to property from the displays referred to, the danger to life in crowded stores or places of meeting, by reason of a panic occasioned by a fire, even though it be small and easily controlled, is so great that the underwriters, who have made a study of such hazards, would fall in line with duty should they not give this warning.

DECEMBER SESSIONS OPEN

Judge Macbeth Presiding at Middlesex County Court.

The December sessions of the peace opened today at 1 o'clock, Judge Macbeth presiding.

In charging the grand jury his honor called attention to two peculiar cases on the list, which pertained to non-support. The judge held that to find a true bill against a person failing to provide for his wife, the fact must first be proved that her health was impaired or likely to become impaired, by reason of such action, or that her life was placed in danger owing to lack of proper nourishment. His honor explained the various charges upon which counts can be made, and further directed the jurors in their duties.

P. J. Edmunds, of London, was chosen foreman of the grand jury. Those suited to jury, and one non-jury, were settled out of court—the results of the International Harvester Company, of Toronto, against N. Burton, of Southwell, and J. R. Crow, of Dover, for payments on notes given on farming implements, and the action by R. H. Porter against Robert Nowie to recover \$200 on a horse deal.

LOTS OF NEW NOVELTIES Suitable for CHRISTMAS at

STRONG'S
Drug Store

184 Dundas St.

Apply any test you choose to
STRONG'S BAKING POWDER.

You'll find it pure and perfect.

FRANCE TO EXILE
PAPAL ENVOY

Continued from page one.

are only 16 francs fine and 15 days' imprisonment, with the right of appeal, sterner measures are necessary.

The Government will probably accept the motion introduced in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday by M. Munier, Republican, providing that all buildings, presbyteries, and so on, occupied by ecclesiastics, shall definitely eschew to the state, the departments and the communes upon the enactment of the law providing for the separation of church and state, and at once make arrangements that the sequestered property shall be used, like the hospitals, for special purposes or public charities, to suppress the pensions of the clergy who do not conform with the laws of 1881, and 1905, and to summon all the priests of military age to the colors, to serve their time in the army with other Frenchmen liable to military duty.

LATER.

Paris, Dec. 11.—Mgr. Montagnini, secretary of the papal nunciature here since the recall of the nuncio, was arrested today upon an order expelling him from France, which will be conducted to the frontier today.

The residence of Mgr. Montagnini was searched by the police.

LOST HER JEWELS,
THAT'S STRAIGHT

Continued from page one.

But all this is getting away from the story.

Miss Moore knows but little of Canadian cold weather. She has lived mostly in Australia or in the fogs of old London, where things are so busy the air hasn't time to freeze enough to make sleighing.

Consequently, when she landed here on Sunday afternoon and heard the ripple of the sleigh bells, she longed for a cutter ride.

A gentleman friend who knows all about sleigh rides volunteered to take her for a drive, and what, ho! Miss Moore accepted.

With a spanking bay the northern gentleman and the lady who had never seen snow before, started for the ride. Away they went for a spin over the Frost Line road, and the young man was kept busy answering questions regarding the Canadian winter.

All went well until the return to the city. Then Miss Moore missed her chaperone bag.

Horror! It contained her purse, rings, earrings, brooches, etc., and it was gone.

There was not much money in the purse, but the jewels were valued at \$1,000.

Miss Moore was heartick. Some of the jewels were family heirlooms, and she prized them highly.

The jewels were notified and Detectives Nickle, Egerton and Rider were placed on the case. Ads were also placed in the local papers.

It was not until this afternoon that any news was heard of the missing gems, when it is understood, they were returned to Miss Moore by Mr. Shaw-Wood, of con. 6, London Township. He had found them on the road, and brought them to the owner as soon as it was possible to do so.