

# Spent Day in Probing Telephone Co. Accounts

## Affairs of N. B. Telephone Co. Occupied Attention of Public Utilities Commission—Accountant Examined as to Capitalization and Other Matters—Statement of Cash Dividends.

The public utility commission held two sessions yesterday and H. A. Powell, who is conducting the case against the N. B. Telephone Co., spent the day in trying to get some light upon the intricacies of the bookkeeping of the company, which, as one of the counsel present remarked, seemed to be in a process of development. At the morning session, O. J. Fraser, accountant for the company, gave evidence as to the capitalization of the company, and in the afternoon he was required to give from the books detailed statements in regard to stock and cash bonuses, the rest of the account being taken from the accounts. He showed that about \$175,000 had been taken out of the rest account and paid to shareholders in the form of stock dividends or bonuses.

Both the commissioners and counsel appeared to be somewhat puzzled at the way various items had been transferred from one account to another, and at 5 o'clock Mr. Powell who was then investigating the stores account, remarked that they had apparently reached a chaotic condition and asked the commission to adjourn till today.

The company was represented by A. P. Barnhill, K. C., and M. G. Reed, K. C. Recorder Baxter, K. C., represented a number of shareholders. H. A. Powell appeared for complainants. Mrs. Smith was the stenographer.

### Mr. Powell Asks For the Books.

In opening the proceedings, Mr. Powell drew the attention of the commission to the schedule attached to the company's answer to which the chairman agreed to take judicial notice. Mr. Powell then asked for the books showing the issues of stock since the company's organization, and these were sent for.

Mr. Barnhill made a statement to the effect that while they were anxious to comply with every reasonable request for information and accounts, they did not wish this to be taken as admitting the jurisdiction of the commission over any accounts previous to the formation of the commission or as to the power of the commission to insist on the production of this information.

Mr. Powell—Let the dead past bury its dead.

Mr. Barnhill—There is nothing in the past which we wish to bury.

Mr. Baxter made a statement to the effect that while they had nothing to conceal regarding the past history of the company or its issues of stock, he could not see any necessity for going back of the organization of the present company in 1907, when authority was given for the increase of the stock from \$600,000 to \$2,000,000.

Mr. Powell pointed out that there was nothing to show that at that time all the stock had been issued.

Mr. Baxter, continuing, said that he represented persons who had purchased stock with the expectation that they would be entitled to dividends up to 8 per cent. and he did not think that an attack should be made on these dividends by a mere allegation that part of the stock was improperly issued without any further particulars. The complainants should not be allowed to make such indefinite statements merely for the purpose of fishing for information.

### O. J. Fraser Called.

The books required having arrived, O. J. Fraser, accountant of the New Brunswick Telephone Company, was called as a witness by Mr. Powell.

Mr. Barnhill at this moment submitted a statement, giving a memo of the stock issues. The first issue shown was \$84,000. Mr. Fraser ex-

### Face Sores and Eruptions.

Zam-Buk Will Quickly Heal.

The approach of Spring finds many people with unsightly face sores, eruptions, boils, etc. In this connection, Zam-Buk is invaluable. An illustration of the way in which it cures even the most serious and chronic cases of eruptions, sores and ulcers, is provided by Mr. R. H. Barker, of Glenora, Ont. He says: "I never could have believed that any remedy could cure so quickly and at the same time so effectively as Zam-Buk cured me. My face began to be covered with a kind of rash, which itched and irritated. This rash then turned to sores, which discharged freely and began to spread. I first tried one thing and then another, but nothing seemed to do me much good, and the eruption got worse and worse until my face was just covered with running sores."

"Apart from the pain (which was very bad) my face was such a terrible sight that I was not fit to go out. This was my state when someone advised me to try Zam-Buk. I got a supply and within a week I was healed. A little longer, and Zam-Buk had healed them completely and my skin was as clear as if I had never had a sore. My face never again had without Zam-Buk in the house."

Zam-Buk is unequalled for Spring face sores, eruptions, ringworm, ulcers, scalp diseases, eczema, tetter, pimples, cuts, burns, bruises and skin injuries and diseases generally. All druggists and stores sell at 50c. box, or post free from Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, for price. Refuse harmful imitations. Zam-Buk Soap, which may be had from any druggist at 25c. a tablet, should be used instead of ordinary soap in all cases of eruptions and skin diseases.

### Dividends and Bonuses Paid.

After some discussion, which showed counsel at sea, the minutes of the directors meeting when the transfer was made were turned up.

Mr. Powell then showed by the books that over \$175,000 had been paid out in stock dividends or cash bonuses up to 1906. The amounts are: 1893, \$4,728; 1895, \$5,168; 1896, \$5,446; 1898, \$7,732; 1899, \$5,732; 1899, \$2,560; 1900, \$5,732; 1903, \$25,000; 1905, \$25,000; 1906, \$6,000.

The company paid no dividend for the latter half of 1907, but in 1908 the dividend was \$50,381 and in 1909, \$62,382, or 5 1/2 per cent. and in 1910, \$70,500, or 6 per cent.

### Continuing witness gave evidence of issues of stock from May 31, 1889, to April, 1907, amounting to \$466,400.

Witness said part of this stock was paid for by transfer of plant, part for cash and part in stock dividends. The latter class, for stock dividends, totaled \$172,568. The witness could not say definitely how much was for payment of the plant. He admitted that \$78,000 previously mentioned was for that purpose. Subsequent to this he found entries for \$3,400 for trunk lines on April 1, 1889. This leaves a balance of \$211,432, and witness could not say whether or not this had all been issued for cash without further reference to the accounts. Of this amount \$102,702 was shown before October 31, 1906, and \$108,730 from that date to April, 1907.

Mr. Powell objected to showing the amount of stock issued in two items to make it look smaller. If there was any other reason he wished to know it.

Mr. Powell commenced to question the witness regarding cash dividends paid, when Mr. Reed objected on the grounds of irrelevancy. Mr. Powell gave his word that it was material, and was allowed to proceed.

### Cash Dividends Paid.

The witness then gave the cash dividends declared each half year from 1899 to Oct. 31, 1906, at rates varying from 4 to 8 per cent. for the half year. The total required was much addition to give off-hand and this was promised for later.

The witness then gave further details of the issues of the stock dividends, totaling \$172,568.

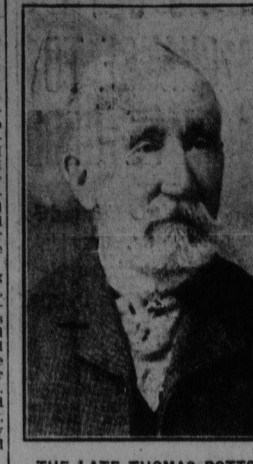
The witness promised Mr. Powell to go into the books and make up a statement of allowances for depreciation at various times.

Continuing, he said that the plant account would show the cost of the undertaking, the cost of buildings, lines, stores, equipment, etc. He did not think the books showed the total divisions of the cost of stores between the capital and maintenance accounts.

At this point Mr. Barnhill handed to Mr. Powell a number of statements prepared in answer to the latter's cross-examination. Mr. Powell, after glancing over the papers, said that he would have to ask the commission for the appointment of an expert to go over and check these accounts.

# CITY HAS LOST GOOD CITIZEN

## Death of Thomas Potts, Yesterday, Removed Man Who Had Always Taken Keen Interest in Public Affairs.



THE LATE THOMAS POTTS.

In the death of Thomas Potts, which took place at his residence, 1 Pagan Place, at an early hour yesterday morning, St. John loses a well known and highly respected citizen.

Mr. Potts was a man who took much more than ordinary interest in the public affairs of the city. His great regard for the welfare of the city was well manifested by his frequent letters to the daily papers. His timely advice was oftentimes beneficial to the city, and he was, at the least, interesting and instructive. Such an interest did he take in issues of civic importance that he attended a meeting held to discuss the commission plan, on a cold night, about two weeks ago, despite the fact that he was in his 84th year, and hardly able to stand. He was, however, so interested that he took a cold, which is thought to have accelerated his death, though heart failure was immediately the cause. He had been confined to his house for about ten days. At first his illness was not thought to be serious, but during the past few days it became apparent that death was fast approaching. He died about 3:30 o'clock yesterday morning.

Mr. Potts was born in Stone Haven, New Brunswick, in 1827, and came to St. John, with his parents, at about three years of age. After being educated in the city, he became engaged in ship building on the eastern side of Courtney street, with his father, who was Captain William Potts. He took a prominent part in the Confederation struggle, and was a popular and successful member of the scheme. One result was that in 1871 he was appointed Commissioner of Immigration in England, and the city has never adopted the plan of exempting individuals for any cause, or of remitting taxes. Exceptional cases are dealt with individually. No relief, however, is given for back taxes, and application for relief in any form must be made before the taxes fall due. The collector is always at work on delinquent taxes and has been very successful in the amount outstanding being comparatively insignificant.

In dealing with the bank the city pays 6 per cent. on its overdraft and is allowed 4 per cent. on deposits. In 1908 the Council was doing very economical work, but with the introduction of the commission plan all this was changed and the new administration thought it best to plunge in order to make an impression. The plunge was somewhat disastrous financially, but finally proved to be a good thing as it created a wide interest in the administration.

In 1909 and 1910 the commission not being properly organized failed to furnish a balance sheet so that the complete results at the beginning of the year were not available for purposes of comparison. Mr. Potts has managed after much difficulty to decide on a basis which he has accepted as the situation when the commission took control in 1908, and has made a comparison of that year with the beginning of 1911. Hereafter he will be able to keep close check on all accounts and give details.

### Too Progressive.

This neglect and certain measures which were looked upon as too progressive on the part of the first board of commissioners, resulted in the defeat of some of the original body. Mr. Sherman, who was looked upon as a first class man, lost his election through loyalty to his department, in that he upheld his own employees in the face of public protest against improper conduct on the part of one of the police force. His defeat has been regretted, but the situation is helped by the knowledge that the present council is composed, without exception, of capable men.

The first commission, it appears, got good enough results, but did not know how to show them. Apparently little attention was given to the system of bookkeeping. Over-drafts in the various departments were concealed and the statement of January 1st, 1910, as near as can be figured, shows an over expenditure of \$40,242 instead of a credit balance of \$51,000, which was claimed at that time. In the incomplete accounts presented by the first commission, the city was thus worse off by \$90,000, than actually appeared on its books, but in spite of this it is said that the true condition of affairs was much better than what had previously existed.

### Making The Levy.

There is a difference from the rapidity in St. John in the Cedar Rapids way of making the levy. In St. John the amounts of money required by each department are decided upon and when the council learns the total amount to be raised, the assessors are instructed to provide this on the property valuation they have prepared.

In Cedar Rapids the rate of assess-

### Committee Does Not Exist Under Commission Plan—Methods Of Assessment—How Sherman Lost His Seat

Following is the next letter in the series contributed by H. V. Mackinnon on his recent trip to study the commission plan:

Mr. E. Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

One of the puzzling things in connection with the Cedar Rapids proposition is the rather remarkable increase in assets shown by the present commissioner of finance. In a city of this size enjoying a revenue from assessment of from \$255,000 to \$250,000 a year, it is a little hard to realize how in the space of less than three years the ordinary profit and loss accounts of the government should be carried on and \$400,000 added to the assets.

In the first place it will appear that all the money collected by the city is now devoted to legitimate purposes, that graft has been eliminated and that good value is being received for every dollar spent. This in itself means a lot. Again, the collections have been better, the police cost alone returning upwards of \$5,000 a year more than under the old regime and other accounts showing up proportionately well.

Here is what Mr. Stepanek says on one portion of the explanation sought regarding this increase in assets: "We have made no allowance for depreciation on a number of our most valuable assets, but we have added to the valuation of our assets, the total amount of money we have expended on these properties during the past three years. This is not applicable to all our properties."

Valuation Too Low.

On the other hand we have increased, without any such cause, the valuation placed on certain other properties because we believe in all cases that the old valuations were entirely too low. At the same time we have not increased these valuations with the natural advance in values of city properties.

"Our water system, in particular, was formerly rated at \$562,000. We have spent a certain amount of money on this, but we now estimate its value at \$700,000, and the difference between these two represents more than the amount we have spent in the intervening years. In this case we believed that we were not crediting ourselves with sufficient value under the old system."

"We have applied a very large portion of our annual receipts during the past three years to actual improvements and this in itself has helped to increase the valuation, but as a matter of fact, a good proportion of what shows on paper as increase in value is really only a paper increase which formerly existed, but was not properly credited."

"A small portion of the apparent increase in assets is balanced by an increase of \$27,000 in bonded debt."

### No Appeals Committee.

Touching again on the subject of taxation, Mr. Stepanek explained that there is no Appeals Committee, and the city has never adopted the plan of exempting individuals for any cause, or of remitting taxes. Exceptional cases are dealt with individually. No relief, however, is given for back taxes, and application for relief in any form must be made before the taxes fall due. The collector is always at work on delinquent taxes and has been very successful in the amount outstanding being comparatively insignificant.

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# The Perfume Store

## Just Received

A new stock of the latest and best New York PERFUMES and SACCHETS.

We invite you to call and sample them, as they comprise the very sweetest odors.

**BARDLEY'S PHARMACY,**  
109 Brussels St.



### Don't Decide Hastily

but let us help you in your selection of

## JEWELRY

from our large and varied assortment which comprises the newest and most artistic effects from English, French and American producers and includes Brooches, Scarf Pins, Neckties, Vest Pins, also an exceptionally nice line of

## WATCHES

**A. POYAS, Watchmaker and Jeweler**  
16 Mill St.

## Ready for Spring Fresh Seeds

JUST ARRIVED.

**Park Drug Store,**  
312 Brussels St. Phone 2298

# TIGER TEA

## DIED.

**DAVIS**—In this city on the 23rd inst., Dora, beloved wife of George Davis, in the 64th year of her age. Notice of funeral will be given later.

**POTTS**—In this city on Wednesday morning, March 22nd, Thomas Potts, in the 83rd year of his age, leaving a wife and one daughter to mourn.

Funeral Friday from his late residence, 1 Pagan Place, Service at 2:30.

**WOOD**—At Welsford, N. B., on March 20, after a short illness, J. Elizabeth, relict of John E. Wood.

Funeral on Thursday from her late residence, Welsford, at 3 p. m.

**QUINN**—At Bay Shore, on the 21st inst., Katherine, widow of Jeremiah Quinn, in the 75th year of her age, leaving four daughters and two sons to mourn.

Funeral on Thursday at 2:30 o'clock from her late residence, Coaches leave King Square at 1:30.

**LEWIS**—In this city, on March 21st, William Lewis, in the 83rd year of his age, leaving four sons, three daughters, nineteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren to mourn.

Funeral on Thursday afternoon, A short service at his late residence, 98 St. James street at 2 o'clock. Also service at the German street Baptist church at 2:30.

## Your Eyes

You will see better and look better with the glasses fitted by

**D. BOYANER, Graduate Optician,** 38 Dock Street. The only exclusive optical store in the city.

ment is fixed for each individual department and purpose. For instance, the fire department may call for an assessment of 5 mills, sewerage 2 mills, electric light 4 mills, parks 3 mills, etc. These rates are all added together and the assessment made on the valuation already arranged.

The city owns and operates its sewerage and water systems. It owns all parks and squares. Gas companies, electric light companies and street railway companies all operate without paying anything for their franchises or without contributing to the city assessment otherwise than by the ordinary levy on their real and personal properties. Gas sells at 90 cents per 1,000 feet. The city pays \$55 per light for street lights on the moonlight schedule, and \$60 on the all night schedule.

**H. V. MACKINNON.**  
P. S.—Mr. Bennett adds to the above that in his humble opinion, the money spent for cutting grass in the parks should not be added to the value of the parks in preparing a statement of the city's assets.

# A Hot Dish for a Cold Day



It is not easy to warm a poorly nourished body. Heat and strength do not come from overcoats or flannels. Bodily warmth and vigor come from foods that are rich in blood-making, tissue-building material. Food for the human engine should be free from "clinkers." You can't "get up steam" in winter on impoverished foods.

# SHREDDED WHEAT BISCUIT

is all fuel-food—no waste, no indigestible material to clog the system and tax the vitality. Shredded Wheat is made of perfect whole grains of wheat steam-cooked, shredded and baked. Two Shredded Wheat Biscuits, heated in the oven and served with hot milk and a little cream, for breakfast, will supply all the heat and strength needed for a half day's work. Not "pre-digested," but "ready-to-digest"—not compounded, flavored or "treated" with anything—just plain, whole wheat, steam-cooked, shredded and baked a crisp, golden brown. Being made in biscuit form it also makes delicious combinations with baked apples, stewed prunes or other fruits, fresh or preserved. Your grocer sells it.

**TRISCUIT is the Shredded Wheat wafer—a crisp, tasty, nourishing whole wheat Toast, delicious for any meal with butter, cheese or marmalades. Always toast it in the oven before serving.**

# REV. B. H. THOMAS GRAND MASTER

## Grand Orange Lodge of New Brunswick Elected Him to Chief Provincial Office Last Night.

Special to The Standard.

St. Stephen, March 22.—The Orange Grand Lodge continued its sessions here today, and proceedings were brought to a close this evening by a banquet.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows:—Grand Master, Rev. B. H. Thomas; Senior Deputy Grand Master, Ira Brown; Junior Deputy Grand Master, J. H. Clark; Grand Chaplain, Rev. A. A. Rideout; Grand Scribe, Neil J. Morrison; Grand Treasurer, H. E. Wadman; Grand Director of Ceremonies, D. K. Graham; Grand Lecturer, A. A. Brewer; Grand Auditors, Harry Sellen, J. F. Stevenson; Deputy Grand Secretary, S. W. Smith.

### LATE SHIPPING.

New York, March 22.—Arad, Strana, Koestina, Libau; Oceanic, Southampton; Europa, Genoa; St. Rosalind, St. John's, and Halifax, N. S.

New London, Conn., March 22.—Arad, Schr. Lucia, Porter, Elizabethport for St. John, N. B.

New York, March 22.—Sailed: Schr. J. Kennedy, Calais, Maline.

# PURE

BALE

every description of horses a speciality. Furniture sales of horses a specialty. Rooms, No. 96 G. Block. Business from 6 p. m. All bred to, P. O. Box 1910.

### SEALED

SEALED TENDERS under the undersigned outside Tenders pair S. S. Weston received up to 5:30, 1911.

Specifications for the Ferry Steamship in more or less detail described below:

All material in quality of spruce specified.

All material to Gregory's Shipyard, North End.

Proper receipt delivery, which in favor, and delivery of Perrie payment shall be enclosed in the part tendered on.

All material found up to specification.

Clamps—5" x 12" 10,000 feet.

Footboards—3" x 12 feet long.

Top Timbers—by 10 feet long, 10 Deck Knees—each way 100 in Hook Knees—each way, 300 feet.

Beams—7" x 12" 6" sweep, from 2 in number.

Planks—3" x 12" 300 feet and up, 25,000 Guards—6" x 11" 3" x 1 in Birch, 300 feet.

Deck Planks—torial, finished six feet to 30 feet, with two sides on 1-2 scaling seen.

GEO. H. W.

### Stock

TENDERS will office of the under the stock in trade situated in the stock by her at Chatham been taken at \$1 debts amount to \$1 Persons tendering any part or all of Tenders shall be certified check for amount of tender, felt in case tender or refuse to comply balance of purchase week after a check to be returned not accepted. If not necessary a Tenders will office of the under the stock in trade situated in the stock by her at Chatham been taken at \$1 debts amount to \$1 Persons tendering any part or all of Tenders shall be certified check for amount of tender, felt in case tender or refuse to comply balance of purchase week after a check to be returned not accepted. 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