

BELL'S STIFF ATTITUDE
RESENTED BY ORILLIANS

Committee Gathers Data Regarding
Installation of Municipal
Phone System.

Orillia, March 4.—(Special)—Orillia is the latest town to fall foul of the Bell Telephone Co. The five-year exclusive franchise enjoyed by the company expired on the 31st of December, and the town council gave notice that it would not be renewed on the old terms. No great difficulty was anticipated in coming to an agreement, however, as it was supposed that the company, having enjoyed good rates for some years without complaint, would readily grant a reduction to rates corresponding with those given in other towns. The council and citizens evidently misunderstood the business attitude of the Bell Company, which will give up none of the fruits of its rich monopoly except under compulsion. The old rates were \$25 per annum, or \$45 for two phones, one at a subscriber's place of business and the other at his residence; \$5 extra for the so-called attachments. The council asked a rate of \$20 for business places and \$15 for residences, or \$30 for the two. These are the rates in vogue in Renfrew. The best the company would offer was a rate of \$25 for business places and \$30 for residences; but at these rates the company were prepared to supply the long distance equipment for which an additional \$5 had previously been charged. The council has declined to bind the town on such terms; the company has refused to give the rates demanded by the council and has asked the council to pay regular rates for the five phones previously furnished free in return for the use of the streets. Here the matter rests for the present, at a deadlock.

Agitation Started.
The unexpectedly stiff attitude assumed by the Bell monopoly has started an agitation in favor of municipal telephones, of which there have always been some strong advocates in Orillia. The matter was the principal topic of discussion at the regular meeting of the board of trade on the evening of the 2nd inst. The feeling was strongly in favor of the installation of a municipal system, unless the Bell Company should come to the council's terms. The only difficulty in the way arises from the fact that those who have long-continued business with the Bell Company, and the removal of this stumbling block the following resolution was passed:

"That this board place itself on record as in favor of government ownership or control of trunk lines of all long distance telephone systems in Canada, and that until government ownership of telephone trunk lines is accomplished legislation should be introduced to compel all telephone companies to allow connection to subscribers of municipal or opposition telephone systems for long distance business and to prevent unjust discrimination. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Sir Wilfrid Laurier."

A resolution was also passed approving of the position taken by the town council.

Will Gather Data.

A special committee was appointed to gather data regarding the installation of a municipal system, with instructions to report at the next meeting of the board. This committee has gone vigorously to work. As a first step they have inserted advertisements in the daily papers inviting telephone construction companies to supply information as to their respective systems. They are also gathering information as to the cost of operation. They have already satisfied themselves that municipal plant can be made a paying investment for local business only, even at lower rates than those which the town council has offered to accept. Unless the Bell Company comes speedily to terms there is every indication that Orillia will before long have a municipal plant. There is a strong sentiment in favor of municipal ownership in the town. The municipality already owns and operates the electric lighting and power plants, and was one of the first towns in the province to adopt municipal ownership in these two franchises. The telephone could be cheaply operated in connection with the present plants. Local patriotism is strong, and would probably enable the municipal plant to start out with an even larger number of subscribers than the Bell exchange now has. The movement also gathers strength from the feeling of dissatisfaction with and resentment at the Bell Company. Many citizens who would have preferred, for the sake of peace and of convenience in long-distance telephoning, to have seen a reasonable arrangement come to with the Bell Company, are now inclined to join in a fight to a finish against that corporation's monopoly.

The lake and rail officials who assembled in Buffalo Friday to discuss differentials, adjourned without making any material change in last year's schedule.

The first annual ball of the Elks Social Club was held on Wednesday evening, March 1, in assembly room, Temple Buildings. The music was furnished by Fred Fralick's orchestra. Heartily congratulations were given P. E. Hamby, Arthur J. Lamb, William R. Brown, P. R. Smith, who had charge of the affair.

Strike Riot in Paris.

Paris, March 4.—The striking carriage makers made a demonstration to-day on the Place de la Concorde. Fifteen arrests were made.

At Brest there was several affrays between strikers and troops with no serious results. Many resolutions were made.

Glimpses of the
Political Field

The past has been an eventful week at Ottawa. It was full of "incident by flood and field." Monday saw Mr. Maclean start the ball rolling by moving the adjournment of the house in order to discuss the treatment of Manitoba in the matter of boundary but really by this wind from the side to open up the whole school question. He read an editorial extract from Le Soleil of Quebec, which showed that Manitoba was to be denied the extension of her boundaries because of her "pretentiousness," to use the word of that paper, in asserting her rights to make her own school legislation. Mr. Maclean was able to show that this newspaper was by its own pontifical declaration the principal organ of Sir Wilfrid in the City of Quebec. Mr. Maclean next declared that if Sir Wilfrid's speech in introducing the autonomy bill was sound from a constitutional point of view he would be in duty bound from the same constitutional point of view compelled to give the minority of Manitoba remedial legislation. He also went on to show that if Sir Wilfrid's proposed legislation was carried out it could only be carried out by changing the Dominion Lands Act, which provided for the management of all the public school lands in the west, Manitoba and the new provinces included, and if this act was changed the result would be that not only the school lands of the new provinces, but that even the school lands of Manitoba would be diverted from public schools to separate schools. And as a wind up Mr. Maclean asked where was the minister of the interior, Mr. Sifton, and where was the late premier of Manitoba, Mr. Greenway, on this question, and why were they not in their seats to protect the rights of their province.

All of which made Sir Wilfrid very wrathful. He assailed Mr. Maclean for manufacturing everything he had said out of his imagination. He repudiated his Quebec organ. He declared he had no intention of introducing a remedial bill, and in the most pronounced manner he declared that he had no intention of diverting in any way the school lands funds either of Manitoba or of the new provinces in so far as a change of the Dominion Lands Act was concerned. As for his colleague Mr. Sifton and his supporter Mr. Greenway, if the member for South York wanted them in their places he should have notified them to be there.

And so with this passage of arms the day closed as far as incident was concerned, but on Tuesday afternoon as soon as the house opened Mr. Sifton, with his hair nicely combed—just as if his mother had washed and combed him and was sending him to school—was in his seat, and one removed over was his friend Mr. Greenway. The member for South York also came in and one of his friends told him that Sifton and Greenway were going to reply to the attack of the day before. They could have taken advantage of the "order of the day" or they could have taken advantage of the motion to go into supply, but the two parties watched one another from opposite sides, the member for South York thinking he was to be attacked and the two gentlemen from Manitoba thinking that Mr. Maclean was to renew his statement of the day before now that they were in their places. As a result nothing happened other than that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was noticed to invite Mr. Sifton out of the house on three different occasions into his private room. Had Mr. Maclean resumed his attack on that afternoon Mr. Sifton would doubtless have announced his resignation.

On Wednesday morning, however, the resignation was announced, and at 3 o'clock everybody was in his place and everybody was in the galleries to hear the "ministerial explanations," as resignations or accessions to the cabinet are styled in the books. Both gentlemen read written statements. The most surprising of all was that when Sir Wilfrid answered Mr. Maclean on Monday as to the whereabouts of his minister and supporter, he at that time knew that Mr. Sifton had placed his resignation in his hands and that Mr. Greenway, as well, was inclined to support Mr. Sifton.

After Mr. Foster had commented on the ministerial statement Mr. Maclean took the floor and went after the prime

minister in a way that rather surprised the leader and everyone in the house. In the words of his organ, Le Canada, of Montreal, it was the severest attack that had ever been made on Sir Wilfrid since he had been prime minister. Some of the Conservatives who had chosen to question Mr. Maclean's act of Monday soon changed their mind when they saw how he was scoring the leader of the government and how he had focused Mr. Sifton, and how he had put the prime minister in a very disagreeable position. Following next came Mr. Leighton McCarthy, declaring that he could not support the school bill, all of which made the afternoon a dramatic one for at least an hour and a half.

On Thursday Mr. Maclean again returned to the question by chaffing the prime minister in not making Mr. Hyman of London minister of public works instead of acting minister of public works, and suggesting to Sir Wilfrid that if he did this and sent Mr. Hyman back to his constituents in London, or even in North Oxford, he would have a good chance of getting the public opinion on his school legislation. As usual, Sir Wilfrid denied that he had Mr. Sutherland's resignation, and that even if he did have it, he would not accept it as long as Mr. Sutherland was ill. That is the kind of answer he always makes when it is pointed out that he is acting unconstitutionally. Mr. Hyman is spending millions of the people's money for public works in almost every constituency in Canada, and he is administering this expenditure as head of the department without having been endorsed by his constituents as the law requires.

And again the incident subsided only to be resumed by the member for South York on Friday, when he read portions of the judgment that the supreme court recently gave dealing with the law in regard to the exemptions from municipal taxation of the land and property of the C.P.R. in the Northwest Territories. The court held that these lands were properly exempt, but in giving its decision the court pointed out that all the ordinances, as the acts of the legislative council and assembly of the territories are called, are temporary, tentative and revocable. It followed, therefore, said Mr. Maclean, that this judgment had a great bearing on the school question in the autonomy bill, and that Sir Wilfrid's argument, when introducing the autonomy bills, that these ordinances were to be regarded as constitutional and that, therefore, parliament was bound to re-enact them in the new constitution of the province, was not good law. Sir Wilfrid shock his locks and the house went into committee of supply. But he knew very well, however, that that part of his constitutional argument had been hopelessly damaged by the decision of the supreme court; and that was the ending of a week of incident on the school question, which had been one of very good parliamentary play on the part of the member for South York, and had resulted in a great deal of damage to the other side.

And outside of the house other things even more serious than that narrated above were taking place. The Liberals from the west were trying to find out where they would be in view of Mr. Sifton's resignation, and up to the time of writing they have not found their bearings; and on top of this the Hon. Mr. Fielding, who was also away when the bill was introduced, had intimated to the premier that there would have to be modifications, and behind Mr. Fielding there stood seventeen, or at the very least, twelve Nova Scotians who would follow him. So that Sir Wilfrid had a solid west and a solid Nova Scotia making very strenuous objections to the bill, some in private caucus and some in muttered remarks in the corridors. Sir Wilfrid if he was surprised at what happened in the house was three times surprised by what happened in his following and all at once the gravity of the situation came home to him. He began to tell his friends, so they say, that he did not know the measure was so drastic, that his minister of justice, Mr. Fitzpatrick, had drawn it, and that if it was so drastic as they represented it to be he would have to find a way for its modification. Thereupon opened a series of caucus and conferences which have been going on ever since Wednesday afternoon. Some say it is all straightened out, some say the trouble still continues, and some say, that once Sir Wilfrid has con-

GRAND OPERA HOUSE

MATS. WED-SAT BEST SEATS 25 FEW ROWS 50
EVENINGS. BEST SEATS 75-50-25

WILLIAM GILLETTE'S
FASCINATING PLAY

SIR
A. CONAN
DOYLE

NEXT WEEK—"The Sign of The Cross"

sent to a modification the door will be closed and the measure will be "jammed thru" the house, and whoever will not support it will be given a chance to go out, whether in the cabinet or whether in rank and file.

So that Monday will see the curtain rise on a troubled or settled sea, if settled only to become troubled more seriously, a few months hence. There is only one settlement, and that is leave these schools now and for all time to the provinces.

SIFTON GOT RID OF.
And Not the First "Troublesome" One So Treated, Says Tablet.

London, March 4.—(C.A.P.)—The Tablet, the leading Catholic organ, re the separate school question, says: "Premier Laurier before now has shown that when there is a principle at stake he can display a decision of character when people familiar only with his kindly, genial disposition might not easily credit him with."
Referring to the Sifton resignation, the Tablet says that this is not the first troublesome colleague whom Premier Laurier has had to get rid of. Some years ago Mr. Tarte, a great friend of Sifton, began to act with an independence which was quite irreconcilable with the constitutional theory which recognizes the collective responsibility of the cabinet. Mr. Tarte was warily dismissed, and he remained in political obscurity ever since.

Nan Patterson Scores.
New York, March 4.—Nan Patterson, the show girl, who has once been tried on the charge of murdering Caesar Young, must be given another trial by May 1 or released on bail.

British Steamer Seized.
Tokio, March 4.—The British steamer Easby Abbey, from Cardiff for Vladivostok, was seized by the Japanese guardships on Feb. 27.

Earl Cawdor Gets It.
London, March 4.—The Globe this afternoon positively asserts that Earl Cawdor has been selected to succeed Lord Selborne as first lord of the admiralty following the latter's appointment as high commissioner in South Africa in succession to Lord Milner, who resigned some time ago.

Building Prospects.
New York, March 4.—The police officials of Brooklyn to-day investigated the murder of an Italian butcher, Pedro Felino, which they say looks much like the work of a "Black Hand" or Mafia organization. Felino was the proprietor of a butcher shop. His body was discovered in a yard in the rear of his shop to-day with two bullet wounds in the head, his throat cut and several slashes across the breast.

MAJESTIC MATINEE EVERY DAY

Evenings 15-25-35-50 Matinees 15 and 25

RETURN OF LAST SEASON'S GREAT SUCCESS
Charles E. Blaney's Thrilling Detective Play

CHILD SLAVES
OF NEW YORK

WITH WILL H. VEDDER AS HOMER SHERWOOD, THE DETECTIVE
One of the most sensational and interesting melodramas ever produced—full of life and action—showing the realistic rescue of the child slaves by the police boat, in which the famous Gilling gun will be seen in action.

NOT A DULL MOMENT FROM START TO FINISH

NEXT WEEK—THE MELODRAMATIC SENSATION, "AFTER MIDNIGHT"—NEXT WEEK

GILLETTE SAFETY RAZOR



Actual Size Triple Silver Plate

400 shaves and no stropping. The secret is, wafer blades, double edged, tempered in a manner not possible with other forged blades. Every blade ground with diamond dust. We uniformly exchange 1 new blade for 2 used ones returned. Razor and 12 blades in plush lined leather case \$5.00.

New blades per doz., \$1.00.

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MODERN GLASSES

We carry in stock and make to order all the latest and most approved styles. We give careful attention to the most delicate and accurate eye examinations and eye-fitting, and in every case we guarantee satisfaction. Oculists' prescriptions a specialty. 2 years' experience.

W. J. KETTLES
Practical Optician, 25 Lander Lane



13 Temperance St. TORONTO.

A "Black Hand" Victim?
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