

conduit is being laid along Elgin St. for the Co.'s wires, & it is probable that one will also be laid to the Parliament Buildings.

The Eastern Townships Telephone Association, is the name of a new company which is endeavoring to start business in the eastern townships of Quebec. The points to be connected are Waterloo, Knowlton, Magog, West Shefford, Cowansville, Sweetsburg, East Farnham, Adamsville, Roxton Pond, Roxton Falls, St. Valerien, St. Anne de Stukely, Lawrenceville, Bonsecours, St. Alphonse, Angeline, L'Ange Gardien, Valcourt, St. Marie, Mawcock, Milton, St. Cesaire, Farnham & Granby. The association purposes connecting with the Sherbrooke line at Magog, & the new St. Hyacinthe Co., at St. Hyacinthe.

A Grand Forks, B.C., despatch of Sept. 12, says:—"C. O'Brien Reddin, of Spokane, President & General Manager of the Columbia Telephone & Telegraph Co., is here to carry out a contract with J. P. Graves for the construction of 50 miles of private telephone lines connecting the head offices here with the City of Paris, Majestic, Knob Hill & Old Ironsides & Aetna mines, the Granby smelter & the smelter dam on the North Fork of Kettle River. Connection will be made at Eholt with the trunk line of the Columbia Co. between Grand Forks & Greenwood. The Co. has a system extending from Rosslund to Camp McKinney, & there are local exchanges at all leading intermediate points. Later on the line will be extended to Penticton & Vernon. Its U.S. ally is the Spokane & B.C. Telephone Co., which reaches Spokane, Republic & other points in Washington. Mr. Reddin occupies the same executive position in the U.S. Company, which with the Canadian Corporation owns 350 miles of telephone lines."

For the purpose of preventing the free use of the telephone by persons who are not entitled to the privilege of communication, the Bell Telephone Co. has adopted the nickle-in-

the-slot machine, to open up a new source of revenue. The Co. complains that its telephones are very improperly used by a large number of persons, especially the instruments in drug stores, grocery establishments & hotels, who pay nothing whatever for service which in many cases must be of great value. Business people who have telephones in their establishments are usually willing to oblige any person who politely asks for the favor, and they are in a measure repaid for their courtesy by the popularity which attaches to a kindly act which costs them nothing. In fact, some subscribers go so far as to provide an extra 'phone with a switch for the use of their customers & the public generally. The Co.'s records state that in some semi-public places as many as a hundred people a day use the instruments promiscuously & thus entail a large amount of work upon the Co.'s staff, for which it receives no remuneration whatever. The five-cent-in-the-slot instrument is to be distinct from the ordinary telephone in the office or store. The person desirous of using the instrument calls up the central operator, who responds by a request to put 5c. in the slot. If this is done an interrupted battery current signals through the operator's telephone that the money has been deposited. The number required is then called & the user can then proceed with his business; but if no money is put into the slot there is no service so far as the central is concerned. It is the intention of the Co. to keep a strict watch on all private 'phones where there is a slot instrument available, to see that the former are not put to an improper use. The nickel-in-the-slot machine is being put in in Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton & London, & will probably be introduced in Ottawa & Quebec a little later on.

Among the Express Companies.

The Dominion Ex. Co.'s office in the Hotel International, Fort Steele, B.C., was recently destroyed by fire.

The Dominion Ex. Co. has opened offices at Gladstone, Cascade, & Grand Forks, B.C., on the Columbia & Western Ry.

The Yukon Overland Express & Transportation Co. has been incorporated under the Dominion Companies Act, with a capital of \$500,000, & with powers to construct & operate a waggon toll road from Cariboo crossing, on Lake Bennett, to Dawson. It is specified in the charter that the whole work shall be completed by Aug. 1, 1901. The provisional directors are, J. T. Cornforth & Jos. Roos, of Denver, Col.; I. R. Hedges, Vancouver, B.C.; Irwin Mahon, Carlisle, Pa.; W. Hutchinson, M.P., & T. McVeity, Ottawa, Ont. The Co. will operate a stage waggon line in summer & a line of sleighs in winter. Mr. Cornforth is said to be an old hand at the stage coaching business, having many years ago conducted a stage line from the Missouri River to Denver. He has gone over the ground of the projected line & believes that when the stages are running, the 400 miles between Cariboo crossing & Dawson can be done in from 3½ to 5 days for express stages. Of course the heavier laden coaches or sleighs will take considerably more time to take in loads of freight. In the place of following the sinuosities of the river a bee line will be made across country from Bennett to Selkirk, thus making a 200 mile journey out of what by the river would be a 350 mile trip. It is the intention to erect way stations every 15 miles, where passengers can rest for the night, & where meals can be obtained. The stages will start from Bennett twice a day, & the directors hope that by the new year the road will be built within 50 miles of Selkirk. It is said to be intended to charge only small tolls to vehicles using the road & not belonging to the Co., as it will be easily seen that the business of the organization will be the better the greater the number of travellers who put up at the wayside inns. The coaches will be constructed in Concord, N.H., but the sleighs & other equipment will, it is said, be purchased in Canada.

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