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ONTARIO'S TELEPHONE BILL.

During recent years Ontario has become a network of telephone lines. Not only has the Bell Telephone Company reached out with its trunk lines, but in almost every section of the Province it has been building local lines. In addition to this great development which has been carried on by the "Bell" there have been numerous independent companies organized, and almost every township has its own independent telephone system.

It is but natural to suppose that this condition of affairs would very shortly reach a crisis. Companies wishing to serve the same district and becoming rivals for business were cutting rates below cost. Rivalry grew into jealousy, until it became impossible for people only half a mile apart to get telephone connection.

A special committee of the Ontario Legislature has been inquiring into the matter, and they recommend that the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board shall have power to order connections between independent telephone companies, decide the rate to be paid for such connections, and to compel telephone companies to give service to those requiring it, and to fix the rate.

The Bell Telephone Company object to certain clauses of the Bill, claiming that they are "ultra vires." They claim that they are a Dominion company, and as such are not under the control of the Provincial Legislature.

There is no doubt but that the Dominion Railways' Commission, which has jurisdiction over the Bell Company and the Ontario Railway Board, will be able to effect a reasonable and just arrangement for the interchange of messages should the Bell Company persist in the stand they have taken.

The great service the telephone companies are doing for the Province is becoming recognized, and the telephone is not now looked upon as a luxury, but a necessity.

The confusion that arises from the handling of the telephone business by so many independent companies will result in either Government ownership or Government control, and it were foolish for any company to fight against such a movement.

THE CANADIAN CEMENT SHOW.

On March 29th, 30th and 31st, 1910, the Canadian Cement Association will hold their second annual exhibition and convention in the city of London, Ont. During the period since its organization, a little over a year ago, this Association has done splendid work in informing the public on the suitability of concrete for various structures, and on keeping the cement users informed as to the best methods in design and the most modern practices in construction.

Their exhibition at London will be extensive and comprehensive, and the papers read at the Association