

## TELEPHONES.

## The Maritime Province Companies.

The Nova Scotia Telephone Co. has an exchange in Halifax with about 1,200 subscribers & one in Dartmouth with about 100. Its trunk lines have between 80 & 90 offices, the rates for 5 minutes conversation being minimum 15c., maximum 30c. At Sackville, N.B. connection is made with the New Brunswick Telephone Co., & at various Nova Scotia points connections are made with local companies as follows:—

At Windsor, with Cheverie Telephone Co.  
At Hantsport, with The Valley Telephone Co., operating in Kings & Annapolis counties.  
At Chelsea, with Queen's County Telephone Co., operating in Queens & Shelburne counties.

At Bridgewater, with the Central Telephone Co., operating in the New Germany district.  
At Great Village, with the Union Furniture & Merchandise Co., operating in the Bass River district.

At Windsor, with the Rawdon Co's. lines, operating in the gold mining district, Hants county.

At Great Village, with the Economy Co's. lines, operating in the Economy & Five Island district.

At Maitland with the Noel Co's. lines, operating along the Noel & Walton shore.

At Elmsdale, with the West Gore & Nine Mile River Co's. line, operating in Hants.

This Co., as mentioned in our June issue, pg. 112, has been planning an extension to serve the lobster factory district. The matter is at present in abeyance; work may be gone on with this fall, but if not it is said that there is no doubt whatever the line will be built next season.

At the recent annual meeting the directors were re-elected as follows: President, R. W. Chipman; Vice-Presidents, R. Uniacke, C. F. Fraser, R. L. Borden, Dr. A. C. Cogswell, Dr. A. Haley, Windsor; C. F. Sise, Montreal; C. E. Harris, Secretary & General Manager. The accounts made up to Jan. 31 last were as follows:

| ASSETS.  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Exchanges & plant                                | \$267,688 32 |
| Stores   | 5,741 28     |
| Stock in other companies                         | 12,640 00    |
| Real estate, buildings, etc.                     | 16,365 69    |
| Amounts due companies                            | 5,595 27     |
| Due by agencies, including Halifax               | 6,820 10     |
| Cash on hand & in bank                           | 4,590 38     |
|  | \$319,421 04 |
| LIABILITIES.                                     |              |
| Capital stock                                    | \$200,000 00 |
| Bonds  | 20,000 00    |
| Bills payable                                    | 14,045 29    |
| Sundry amounts due                               | 12,533 34    |
| Depreciation Account                             | 3,000 00     |
| Dividend no. 15, payable March 1, 1898           | 6,000 00     |
| Accident Reserve Account                         | 5,902 50     |
| Insurance Reserve Account                        | 6,000 00     |
| Contingent Account and Sinking Fund              | 30,000 00    |
| Profit & Loss Account                            | 21,939 91    |
|  | \$319,421 04 |
| PROFIT AND LOSS.                                 |              |
| CR.  |              |
| Feb. 1, 1897, balance                            | \$ 20,204 89 |
| Jan. 31, 1898, net earnings                      | 16,735 02    |
|  | \$36,939 91  |
| DR.  |              |
| Jan. 31, 1898, Dividend 14, paid Sep. 1, 1897    | \$6,000 00   |
| Jan. 31, 1898, Dividend 15, payable Mar. 1, 1898 | 6,000 00     |
| Jan. 31, transferred to Sinking Fund             | 3,000 00     |
|  | \$15,000 00  |
| Balance forward                                  | \$ 41,939 91 |

On Aug. 8 the usual ½-yearly dividend of 3% was declared.

In addition to the companies named above, the Yarmouth Amalgamated Telephone Co. operates in Yarmouth.

The New Brunswick Telephone Co., with headquarters at Fredericton, has an exchange

in St. John & 28 trunk line toll offices. In addition to the connection with the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. above mentioned, the N.B. connects as follows:

At St. John with the St. Martin's Telephone Co., of which the N. B. Co.'s Local Manager at St. John is Manager. This line has four offices, the furthest being some 50 miles from St. John.

At Norton with the Chipman Line, which is owned by the Central Ry. Co. This railway has no telegraph & operates its trains by telephone instead of telegraph orders.

The directors of the N. B. Co. are: Hon. A. G. Blair, President; A. A. Stockton, St. John; J. L. Black, Vice-President; C. Fawcett, Sackville; W. T. Whitehead, Fredericton; C. F. Sise, Montreal. The managing Director & Treasurer is F. A. Thompson, Fredericton.

On the trunk line between St. John & Moncton, 90 miles, iron wire is being replaced by copper, the intention being to extend the copper wire to Sackville, where connection is made with the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. In St. John the Co. uses silicium bronze wire, 17 gauge, entirely, finding the life of no. 12 iron for exchange work to be only about 4 or 5 years.

The Telephone Co. of Prince Edward Island, with headquarters at Charlottetown, has exchanges in Charlottetown & Summerside & pretty well covers the Island with its trunk lines, having 76 stations & about 200 miles of line outside the exchanges. Its charges for the trunk lines are: 5 miles for 5 minutes conversation, 10c.; 5 to 10 miles, 20c.; over 10 miles, 25c.; with ½ rates for each additional 5 minutes or fraction thereof.

## Bell Telephone Co.

At a meeting of directors, July 29, acting upon the power conferred upon them by the shareholders at the annual meeting in Feb., 1892, it was decided to increase the capital of the Co. from \$3,168,000 to \$3,960,000. Each stockholder of record on July 29 is entitled to take, at par, shares of the new stock in the proportion of 1 share for every 4 shares then held. Subscriptions will only be accepted for full shares. Holdings that are not multiples of 4 shares can be adjusted by the purchase or sale of rights. The Co. will neither buy nor sell rights. The right to subscribe will expire on August 20, at 1 p.m. All stock not taken by subscriptions then on file at the Secretary-Treasurer's office will be disposed of as the directors shall determine. Stockholders who take new stock must file their subscriptions, & subscribers under purchased rights must file the assignment under which such rights are acquired with their subscriptions, at the Secretary-Treasurer's office, before August 20, at 1 p.m. Sellers of rights will not subscribe therefor. Payment at the rate of \$100 for each share must be made as follows: 50% on Sep. 1, 1898, 25% on Jan. 2, 1899, & 25% on April 1, 1899. Receipts for the amounts paid, bearing interest at the current rate of dividend, will be issued in exchange for each payment, & stock certificates will be issued at the date of the final payment.

After the publication of the notice there was an immediate demand for rights, which brought 60, while the regular stock ex-rights sold was bid 165. The price offered for rights shows the confidence which the public has in this security.

The Co.'s property in Barrie, Ont., was this year assessed for \$3,750. The Co. appealed against this decision to County Judge Ardagh, who gave judgment reducing the assessment to \$933.85, & stated that the property should have been assessed in the several wards & not in bulk. He held that telephone instruments & income are not accessible, but switchboards are.

In London, Ont., the Co. has lowered rates as follows: Telephones in residences from \$25 & \$30 to \$20 a year, unlimited, & for doctors' & dentists' offices from \$35 to \$25.

A new system of numbering telephones has been adopted in Montreal, under which it is necessary in all cases while asking for the number of the telephone required to add the exchange to which it belongs, that is, either main, east, up (uptown), Westmount or south, as the numbers are to run from 1 upwards on each exchange. This has necessitated re-numbering a large majority of the telephones. It is the custom in Montreal for operators to use the letter O instead of the word "naught," as, for example, in numbers like 2030, which is called "two-O-three-O," instead of "two-naught-three-naught," as this is thought, after years of experience in the U.S., to be less confusing & causes fewer mistakes.

The Co. met with a good deal of opposition in Quebec on Aug. 10, in regard to its scheme to put its wires underground. Local Manager Dauphin & Mr. Tower, of Montreal, appeared before the Civic Road Committee to explain their project, but as it did not provide for the removal of all street poles, a hot argument ensued. Mr. Tower claimed that it was necessary to leave some poles standing for distribution purposes. The committee wanted them all down. The Co. claims that by its charter it can put the wires underground, whether the corporation assents or not, & they propose to do so. Montreal had a similar case which the Privy Council decided against the city. The committee finally decided to send the City Engineer, with Mr. Tower, to look over the ground & report.

## Telephone Items.

The Vancouver, B.C., Telephone Co. has started a nickel-in-the-slot machine at English Bay, which has been found a great convenience to business men & others camping out.

A telephone company has been established at St. Valier, P.Q., & is giving communication between the parishes of St. Raphael, St. Cayetan d'Armagh & St. Philemon de Bellechasse.

Dr. Shaw, Lucan, Ont., is said to be making arrangements to construct telephone lines to some of the neighboring villages. It is said a line is to be built first to Southgate, in London township, & after to Saintbury & Mooresville.

The People's Telephone Co., of London, Ont., which recently secured a 15 years' franchise from the city, is said to be going to withdraw from the field, the City Council having declined to guarantee an extension of the franchise at the end of that term.

A telephone line has been completed by a private company to Welwood, Man., 15 miles north of Carberry, with an intermediate station at Petrel, 8 miles out. It is said the Bell Co. will put in a service between Carberry & Neepawa, 30 miles, with stations at Brookdale, Montrose & Petrel.

The Ontario Telephone & Switchboard Construction Co. has been incorporated by Ontario Letters Patent, with a capital of \$75,000. It is composed of R. Fox, T. H. Smallman, F. B. Leys, T. H. Purdon, R. A. Bayly, J. Labatt, M. Masuret, J. Milne, Dr. J. D. Wilson & J. R. Minihnick of London, Ont., & R. H. Evans & H. C. Walters, of Detroit, Mich.

The New Westminster & Burrard Inlet Telephone Co. has toll lines in operation between Steveston, New Westminster, Vancouver, Port Moody, Ladner's Landing & Chilliwack, a total length of 106 miles of toll lines tributary to the cities of Vancouver & New Westminster. There are, also, 18 offices where the general public can communicate to or from, on payment of tolls. The Co. also operates the systems at Nanaimo, Kamloops, Vernon & Nelson.