

Fighting for Long Distance Connection.

The Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners, at a meeting in Toronto, received application from the following eleven independent telephone companies for an order compelling the Bell Telephone Co. to provide long-distance connection with their systems: Ingersoll Telephone Company, Harrietsville Telephone Association, Blenheim & South Kent Telephone Company, Wheatley Telephone Company, People's Telephone Company of Forest, South Lambton Telephone Co-operative Association, Port Hope Telephone Company, Markham & Pickering Telephone Company, Niagara District Telephone Company, and Brussels, Norris & Grey Municipal Telephone System and Consolidated Telephone Company.

The Bell Company resisted the application, being represented by counsel, and having an American expert from New York present to testify that granting such an order could not be worked out.

At the conclusion of the hearing, chairman J. P. Mabee granted the application of the independent companies for an order compelling the Bell Telephone Company to give the former long-distance connections over the latter's system. The order is good for twelve months, and if it proves satisfactory then it will be made permanent. Each of the independent companies is to reimburse the Bell Company for all expenses in connecting these companies, and any dispute as to the charges to be paid by the independent companies will be referred to the electrical expert retained by the Railway Board for settlement, in order to prevent any litigation. Each of the independent companies will make monthly or weekly returns of the long-distance traffic and the calls originating on their systems and being transmitted over the Bell Company's lines, and they will also furnish returns as to the other details in connection with the character and volume of traffic thus originating on their systems.

A long-distance connection toll of 15 cents for each long-distance call which originates on the independent lines and is transmitted over the Bell Company's lines will be paid by the independent companies to the Bell Company. This 15 cents toll will be additional to the regular long-distance tolls of the Bell Company from the point where it connects with the independent line to the destination of the call. The independent companies will pay to the Bell Company at the end of each month the long-distance tolls plus the 15 cents. This part of the order, the chairman pointed out, dealt only with outbound traffic. Regarding inbound traffic originating on the Bell Company's lines and being transmitted over the independent lines to destination, these calls would not be subject to the 15 cents charge, but the independent companies must keep records of all inbound traffic as well as outbound.

Applications from other independent companies other than the eleven named cannot be entertained during the year covered by the order.

A Drainage Survey.

According to arrangement with the Department of Physics at the Ontario Agricultural College, "The Farmer's Advocate" farm was surveyed last week for tile drainage, and on Wednesday afternoon a demonstration was held by Prof. Wm. H. Day, who came out to the farm especially for that purpose. The method of making the survey is to set stakes and take the level of each of the four corners of a complete series of hundred-foot squares. In addition, the altitude of high or low intervening spots is taken, so that, with the rough map and data collected, a complete map of the topography of the farm may be drafted. In about two weeks' time this map should be returned to the proprietor, neatly executed, showing length, direction and size of tile required for each main and lateral drain required for the whole farm. By virtue of much experience and study, the Department is in a position to lay out thus a more economical and effectual system than even an experienced drainer could do. Indeed, it is within the mark to state that, for anyone contemplating much drainage, such a map as is supplied would be easily worth one hundred dollars, and is, besides, a nice thing to have. All it costs is the surveyor's railroad fare from Guelph, at a cent a mile, his board for about three days, a few bundles of lath, and an assistant for two or three days, amounting in all to between five and ten dollars. In addition, much valuable advice and assistance in taking levels, etc., is furnished.

The demonstration on Wednesday afternoon was attended by twenty deeply-interested farmers. Prof. Day emphasized the need of drainage, pointing out that many fields which seem to have good stands of wheat or clover, are discovered, on examination, to have bare spots where much extra crop would be produced with better drainage. One great advantage of tiling is that it warms the soil, permitting seeding two or three weeks earlier in spring. Water is the hardest substance to heat of anything except the gas hydrogen. It is ten times as hard to heat as sand, and seven times as hard as loam. About half the sun's heat striking the field on which he stood was going to evaporate moisture. Drainage would save about half the waste. Another advantage of drainage is that it allows the admission of air, and thus permits bacteria to thrive. Drained soil has also a greater capacity for capillary moisture (the only form that is valuable for plant growth), consequently it stands a drouth much better than undrained land.

Illustrating the value of digging exactly true to grade, Prof. Day cited a case in Lincoln County, where a long drain had recently been put down by an experienced drainer, who thought he had dug to a uniform grade. Examination showed a long sag of one inch, and it was further found that in the center of this sag was an inch of silt which the first heavy rain had brought

down and left there, thus reducing the capacity of the drain to that extent.

Prof. Day also explained the best way of digging true to grade, and answered many questions as to outlets, silt basins, direction and size of tile, etc.

"The Farmer's Advocate" farm is not a hard one to drain, having a fall of forty feet from front to back. We could have drained it well ourselves, but even here we consider the survey will be worth many dollars to us, and would strongly advise every Ontario farmer who is thinking of having any drainage done to apply at once for this cheap and valuable service to Prof. Wm. H. Day, O. A. C., Guelph.

Date of Next Eastern Winter Fair.

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Ontario Live-stock and Poultry Show was held in Ottawa on Friday, May 5th. The report on the past year shows that a wonderful increase in exhibits and attendance has taken place in the last few years, while the last show was by far the best yet held. The farmers of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec are realizing the educational possibilities of the Show, and are becoming most enthusiastic in their support of it. The attendance last year totalled about eighteen thousand, as compared with ten thousand the year previous. The financial statement shows that receipts for the past year amounted to \$14,044.77, while the expenditures were \$14,445.48. The largest receipt was the grant of \$7,500.00 from the Ontario Legislature.

In the election of officers and committees, very few changes were made. The appointments include that of Peter White, Pembroke, President; John Bright, Myrtle Station, Vice-President; and D. T. Elderkin, Ottawa, Secretary-Treasurer.

The next show will open at Ottawa on Tuesday, January 16th, and close on Friday, January 19th, 1912. The prize-list will be revised shortly by the executive committee. Several large increases will be made, as the Legislative grant has been increased to \$8,500, while further increased grants have also been made by several of the associations, including the Clydesdale Horse Association, the Dominion Shorthorn Association, and the Canadian Ayrshire and Holstein Associations.

Cement Merger Affairs.

The application to Parliament by the Canada Cement Company for a bill to create an issue of \$11,000,000 five-per-cent. debenture stock to take the place of \$11,000,000 seven-per-cent. cumulative preference stock, now outstanding, is being opposed by Sir Sanford Fleming. The merger was brought about in 1909, eleven companies combining, with a capital of some \$30,000,000, of which \$11,000,000 was preference, and Sir Sanford complains that large sums appropriated by the group of parties bringing about the merger have not been accounted for. It is admitted that the promoters received a large block of common stock for their services, and that some money or stock is to be accounted for, but not as much (\$13,406,150) as Sir Sanford states. He was president of the International Cement Company, of Hull, that went into the merger, and was interested in others, and also president of one that did not get in. A good many members of Parliament at Ottawa express the opinion that there should be an investigation, not only in the interests of the Canada Cement Company, but of the public.

With or Without.

The kitchen set arrived in good condition. It certainly is a beauty, and I hope it may be a joy for ever. Thanking you very kindly for your remembrance of small favors, and hoping you may live long to enjoy prosperity on "The Farmer's Advocate" farm, without the blessings of reciprocity.
DAVID McLELLAN.
Hants Co., N. S.

A note from our Prince Edward Island correspondent, Walter Simpson, dated May 5th, says: "Just beginning work on the land here. No seeding done yet, but will be general in a few days."

Joseph Mantell, of Peterboro, Ont., at 102 years old, is hale and hearty, spending most of the day time working his garden. In celebration of his birthday, Masonic brethren took him for an automobile ride.

A new site on the corner of University Avenue and Anderson St., Toronto, has been purchased by the Government for the Ontario Veterinary College, and new buildings will be erected.



"An Ever-widening Field."

Reports Supt. Putnam, in announcing a series of 618 lectures for the coming summer.