

**BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY—IN COMMITTEE—Con.**

*Maclean, W. F.* (South York)—5995.

The understanding was that this Bill should not be proceeded with further until the government measure dealing with telephones had been brought down—5995. The provision for a wide exchange of telephone traffic between the different companies is not in the Bill—5996. The position taken by the large delegations that came here was that, until provision is made in the general Act, which regulates that monopoly, they do not want this increased capital to be given—5998. Will the Prime Minister allow me to inform him what the report of the committee, which is now before the House, contains—5999. The government have no right, I contend, to ask the House to empower the Bell Telephone Company to increase its capital without the safeguards being provided in public legislation—6000. The amendment that the hon. minister (Mr. Emmerson) now says he intends to recommend to the House is not the amendment he presented to the committee—6002. I do not think we ought to allow this increase in the capitalization to go through until the public is fully protected—6003. The amendment as reported by the committee is not printed, and that is one reason why this Bill should stand—6005. Let us hear from the government what they intend to do, and when we have dealt with the amendments to the law there will be no trouble about this Bill going through—6006. Here we have two ministers of the government going back on the principles they have enunciated in regard to this Bill—6010. I have no intention that the Bell Telephone Company shall have an increase of its capital under conditions that would allow it to extend its monopoly—6011. The company can get the right to increase its capital as soon as the government give the public the inspection they have been promised and to which they are entitled—6012. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) read it in the government measure?—6016. You used to weep for the farmers; and now you weep for the Bell Telephone Company—6017. It is a great principle and you denounce and deny it under this law—6018. I have given notice of a motion that, on the third reading, if public rights are not protected, I will move to refer the Bill back to the committee—6022.

*Monk, F. D.* (Jacques Cartier)—6003.

It was decided that this Bill would not go on until we had the assurance that a general law would be passed this session dealing with the telephone question—6003. Now that we have that assurance from the government, I think there is no reason for retarding the progress of the Bill—6004.

*Pringle, R. A.* (Stormont)—5996.

When this matter was before the Railway Committee the discussion was as to the rights of municipalities, it was not on this question of principle that my hon.

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*Pringle, R. A.* (Stormont)—Con.

friend (Mr. Maclean) has just referred to—5996. I may say that these amendments have gone through the special committee practically as recommended—5997. Is there any reason why the Bell Telephone Company should build up these other companies for the purpose of destroying their own business?—6019. We are dealing simply with a Bill increasing the capital of the Bell Telephone Company—6020.

*Sproule, T. S.* (East Grey)—6002.

It will be of no use at all—6002. If the proposed amendment of the Minister of Railways passes you might as well have no provision for interchange—6005. Quotes the amendment—6012. Where there are two systems and where these two systems touch, I hold we ought to have connection—6013. One switchboard could connect these local systems with the Bell, but they don't allow it. If the Minister of Railways amendment is carried it is of no value—6014. These local companies come from the country; they are not operating much in the villages, but in the village they connect with the Bell—6015.

**BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF CANADA, THE—THIRD READING.**

Motion that Bill (81) respecting the Bell Telephone Company of Canada be read the third time—Mr. Bureau—6317. Motion to amend—Mr. W. F. Maclean—6321. Amendment negatived: yeas, 24; nays, 96. Bill read the third time and passed—6322.

*Bureau, J.* (Three Rivers)—6318.

The only question at issue in this Bill is whether the Bell Telephone Company are entitled to the increase of capital they are asking for—6318. Why should the Bell Telephone Company be subject to restrictions that are not included in the general law?—6319.

*Lancaster, E. A.* (Lincoln and Niagara)—6317.

No good purpose can be served by going into a discussion of this Bill now—6317. This Bill will not become law any quicker if passed to-night than if passed Friday night—6318. It was distinctly stipulated by Mr. Fitzpatrick that we would not be asked to pass this Bill until general amendments were adopted by this House 6319.

*Maclean, W. F.* (South York)—6321.

Reads notice of amendment made on May 28th; moves amendment—6321.

*Monk, F. D.* (Jacques Cartier)—6320.

We have not only the assurance of the government and the fact that the law is before us but the certainty that the Bill to amend the Railway Act is going through the House—6320. If we retard the passage of this Bill the Bell Tele-