

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

In 1894 five men—myself among the number—obtained a charter for a telephone company to be known as the Parkhill Telephone Company. We had 22 instruments in use, and had put up a line to a pleasure resort called Grand Bend, on Lake Huron, 14 miles north of this town, and had 5 instruments working on this line. We were charging \$1 per month for use of 'phones, and were making a little money when Mr. Scott, a special agent of the Bell Telephone Company, appeared upon the scene and told us we had to sell out to the Bell Company or they would put in instruments and put up a parallel line to Grand Bend and run it free. This we could not stand, so we had to sell out at less than it cost us. I was the secretary of the company.

Re CHARGES.

Now we pay \$15 each for our 'phones, and do not get very good attention, for the boy who attends to it is clerking in the store, and though there are 35 subscribers here, we have to wait until he waits upon his customers and then he answers the 'phone or call.

Re LONG-DISTANCE 'PHONES.

The price we consider almost prohibitive; 70 cents for 3 minutes to Toronto, 100 miles; and 15 cents per minute over time.

Three minutes is not long enough where breaks occur frequently. We are not satisfied with the charges for long-distance messages, nor with the time given.

Yours respectfully,

A. W. HUMPHRIES,

Mayor.

No. 165.

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, HAMILTON, ONT.,

CITY HALL, June 15, 1905.

Sir: WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G.,

Postmaster General and Chairman of
Select Committee on Telephone Systems,
Ottawa.

SIR,—In reply to your circular letter of the 7th instant, respecting telephone systems, I have the honour to subjoin a memorandum submitted to the Minister of Justice on the question by representatives of the Ontario Municipal Association on February 3, 1903. The memorandum expresses fully the views of the association, and if legislation could be secured along the lines suggested therein we believe that it would greatly improve existing conditions.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours faithfully,

S. H. KENT,

Secretary, Ontario Municipal Association.

MEMORANDUM.

It is submitted that in any measure that may be passed by the Dominion parliament, provisions should be inserted to the effect following:—

1. That no telephone system should be established or any existing system extended in any city or town without the consent by by-law of the council of the municipality, which should have power to impose such terms, conditions and restrictions as to the use of its streets, the placing of poles and conduits and of wires and other appliances, in all streets and public places, and the rates of service to be charged, as the municipal council deem reasonable.