

## THE TELEPHONE BILLS ARE BEING DISCUSSED

Vote of \$400,000 for the Public Service Passed The Doukhobor Question Brought up by Mr. Gillis--Cost of Rural Telephones--Government to Dictate the Book-keeping System to Municipalities.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29  
Three petitions were presented today, one for an act to ratify certain by-laws of the town of Battleford, another for an act to incorporate the Canada Fire Insurance Co., and another to admit W. O. Tessier as a physician and surgeon of the province.

Mr. Bole's questions respecting the license commissioners was answered, 250 applications for licenses had been received and it was the intention to have the commissioners sit in the various parts of the province to hear and settle on the applications.

A bill respecting the institute of chartered accountants of Saskatchewan, and one to incorporate the Imperial Fire Insurance company, as well as one to ratify the issue of certain Moose Jaw debentures, and one to give the city of Moose Jaw power to expropriate certain lands, were read a first time.

The telephone bills were read a second time after a short explanation by Mr. Calder.

Provision is made for a railway and telephone department. The government is given power to construct telephone lines within the province, and to purchase existing lines as well as to manage and operate lines and have control over rates and tariffs charged.

The part relating to municipal systems provides that any municipality should operate its own system and the municipality is given power to raise money.

The part relating to the rural telephone system provides that a few persons living in the rural sections of the country may form a company, being assisted by the government in the way of organization, and construct and operate a telephone system for their own benefit.

Mr. Gillis, who was leading the opposition, did not think these telephone bills were what the people wanted. The country wanted a system of government ownership. However, he would wait for more detailed information before offering further criticism.

During the afternoon the House went into committee of supply and voted \$400,000 to provide for the public service. The vote was necessary as all the money voted last session had been used and money was required before the usual estimate would be brought down.

In committee on the seed grain bill Mr. Turgeon had a clause amended to provide that the seed supplied to any applicant was not to exceed 25¢ and a sub-section was added providing for the publication of the list taken in the Saskatchewan Gazette. These alterations had been made as the result of representations made by loan companies.

Municipal Law Committee  
After the regular session of the House, the committee on Municipal Law, consisting of the whole House held a sitting. Mr. Neely was appointed chairman and Mr. Page, secretary.

The bill respecting the department of municipal commissioner was taken up first. The government intended to have a systematic book keeping arrangement for all municipalities. Inspectors were to be appointed to see that the books were properly kept.

It was possible also that the government might arrange to have the actual books prepared and sold to the district. Mr. Elliott thought it was poor policy to say to the municipalities "thou shalt buy from us, and thou shalt pay," although he agreed that the government should regulate the system and appoint inspectors. He suggested that the government to distribute such books free to the municipalities would be more well spent, and better spent than most of the money expended by the government.

Dr. Elliott and Dr. Ellis both objected to the power given in clause 1 to the commissioner to dismiss a official in a municipality. They did not think it proper to give the commissioner such arbitrary power. However, the clause was agreed to and the committee rose.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30  
The House sat for three hours today, most of the time being spent in committee.

A couple of minor government bills were read a first time.

In order to bring the Doukhobor question before the House, Mr. Gillis of Whitewood moved the adjournment. He referred to their pilgrimages and incarceration of some of them in jail in Fort William, the return of 71 of them to Yorkton. He understood that the department of the attorney general had taken some action with regard to these people. This might be necessary in the urgent circumstances, but he protested against the province being saddled with the responsibility of these people. This, he contended, rested on the Dominion government. The Doukhobors were not becoming citizens of the province and outside of perhaps

giving temporary relief this province should undertake no further obligations with regard to them.

Mr. Turgeon in reply stated that the government was at the present time considering their responsibility with regard to these people, however, they could not come to any ultimate decision until they had received more information which he was procuring as fast as possible.

The motion was then withdrawn. In committee the telephone bills were discussed.

In the discussion it came out that the government had information from the Bell Telephone Co., and the Saskatchewan Telephone Co., to the effect that they were willing to sell out to the government.

The commissioner of telephones is given power to enquire into rates of private telephone companies, and gives the government power to alter the rates to a fair basis if they are found to be discriminatory. The government was assisting the private telephone companies. One clause in the bill authorizes the appointment of a commission to take over the management of telephone systems. In the Municipal Telephone Bill, provision is made for municipalities to float debentures by referred by-law. The term of debentures in rural districts is not to exceed 15 years, while in towns and cities the term may be longer.

Some thought the life of debentures for rural districts was too short, but as it was pointed out that the poles would not last longer than 15 years, it would be inadvisable for the issue of debentures to run longer than the life of the plant and the clause carried.

FRIDAY, MAY 1  
Today in the House, the premier moved first readings of a bill to amend the Steam Boilers Act, and a bill to amend the Legislative Assembly Act.

Mr. Gillis moved for a return respecting seed grain, and it was ordered that Mr. Motherwell intimated that it would involve a good deal of time and labor and it was possible that some of the information asked for in the return might not be prepared.

The two bills affecting Moose Jaw were read a second time on motion of Mr. Wellington, and referred to a committee on private bills.

The bill to incorporate the Imperial Fire Insurance Co. was read a second time.

The House in committee again took up the rural telephone bill. There was considerable discussion on the clause which affected the maximum dividend a company should be authorized to declare. Some favored five per cent, while others wanted 8 per cent to encourage capital. It was finally placed at 8 per cent.

In reply to a question, Mr. Calder stated that poles 30 feet high would cost about 75 cents each and poles 15 feet high about \$1.50 delivered. 30 poles to a mile the cost per pole for poles would be from \$25 to \$5, while the total cost of rural telephones would be \$80 to \$100 per mile.

There was some discussion on the question of exempting companies from taxation.

The bill was left in committee for further consideration. In the special committee to discuss the controverted municipal elections act which met, Mr. Langley made his attack on the judge subject comment on which appears elsewhere.

MONDAY, MAY 4  
A bill to amend the act respecting public printing and a bill to incorporate the Hudson Bay Insurance Co., were given first readings.

Mr. Elliott secured an order for a return showing correspondence regarding a road south of sec. 15-17-9 and Mr. Wylie one respecting boiler inspection.

A bill to incorporate the Weyburn and one respecting the town of Weyburn were read a second time. A second reading was given a bill respecting the consolidation of the Saskatchewan Statutes.

The House in committee took up the Municipal Telephone System bill, the Bills of Sale bill, and the bill to amend the Assignments Act. On the Municipal Telephone Bill it was decided to give municipalities power to borrow 2 per cent. of their assessment on real property.

Mr. Calder said that he had gone to the matter and found that 2 per cent would be sufficient. The assessment of the city of Regina was in the neighborhood of \$11,000,000, and he had heard it stated that the value of the telephone plant was in the neighborhood of \$250,000, which was 2 per cent. of the assessment.

Moose Jaw was about \$8,000,000, which would allow, at 2 per cent, \$160,000 for telephone development. The Regina plant would be capable of serving a population of 40,000 or 50,000, so far as the underground work was concerned. Then again the plant that was placed by the Bell Telephone company in Regina cost a

great deal more than that in the city of Saskatoon or Moose Jaw, where everything was above ground. If Wolsley or Indian Head, for example were to put in a plant it would be an overhead system. Therefore he thought 2 per cent. would be sufficient.

There was another point as to the amount they should allow rural municipalities to borrow for the purpose of telephone development. It was fixed at 25 cents per acre of land. Under the rural municipal act they were allowing rural municipalities to borrow 13 cents per acre for other purposes. The sum of 25 cents might seem excessive, but as a matter of fact, if rural municipalities were to take advantage of the act it would require about that amount. He had gone into it carefully with Mr. Dagher, and it would require about \$40 for every quarter section. In reply to Dr. Ellis he said that it would not depend on any great extent on the size of the municipality. Where there was a larger system there was a greater expenditure in the central office, but it would not amount to a great deal.

Dr. Ellis remarked that it was just about twice the borrowing powers for all other purposes. Mr. Calder thought it might be cut down to 20 or even 15 cents per acre. The maximum allowed would be 25 cents. Mr. Dagher had communicated with all the local improvement districts and had received replies from a large number of them showing the exact location of the houses, and had worked out a telephone system for each of these. On an average there would be 300 miles of lines in each of our present local improvement districts, and 300 miles of line at \$100 a mile would be \$300,000 for four townships, \$5000 for a single township, or about 25 cents for each acre. That would be for a fully developed system, but it was not likely that the rural municipalities would install a system of that nature first. In reply to Mr. Bole he said that there was no doubt that giving the local authorities power to borrow additional amounts would to a certain extent affect their other securities.

Mr. Gillis thought 25 cents an acre a perfectly safe maximum. It was agreed to fix the amount at 2 per cent, and 25 cents an acre. Clause 19, was made to read: "Every municipal telephone system constructed under the provisions of this act shall, during construction, be subject to the inspection of an engineer officer appointed by the commission."

The bill to amend the Sales Ordinance was considered in committee of the whole.

Mr. Turgeon proposed an amendment to section 33 providing that the lieutenant governor in council may change the scale of fees to be charged for the registration of chattel mortgages. This provision was made necessary in order that the change in the registration system might be made to conform with the present conditions.

The bill was reported to the House with amendments, and the amendments were read a first and second time.

The Assignments Act amendments were next taken up in committee, the bill was reported to the House.

The bill to amend the Surrogate Courts Act was also considered in committee. The bill was reported with amendment, and these were read a first and second time.

The Rural Telephone Bill was placed in committee on Municipal Law, and under section 8 it was provided that subscribers to the stock of the company must pay up \$20 per pole per mile to be constructed, before the company can commence construction. This amount must be paid in cash, and it will amount to about one-fifth of the total cost per mile of the telephone line.

The provision regarding the supplying of new services was amended and the law made that applications for new services must be granted, provided that the supplying of such services does not require from the company the expenditure of more than \$50.

The committee reported progress and asked leave to sit again. The house adjourned at 4 o'clock.

Minard's Liniment used by physicians

May

Across the world the tides of old romance  
Have borne again white cloud-fleets of the May;  
All round their pole the guttleless children dance—  
Close not the windows of your heart today!

Close not the chambers of remembrance of dreams;  
See not the gardens where love bloomed of old,  
But open up to crooning forest-streams  
Where Spring has touched her wild-wood harp of gold.

The sunset's kiss will crimson every rose;  
The locust buds have claimed each roving bee—  
Close not your heart today, for no one knows  
What May will bring of hope and melody.

—S. A. White, in The Canadian Magazine.

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2500 yards best quality 36 in. Flannelette. Regular price in Regina stores 17c. yard. On sale here ..... 10c. yard  
1800 yards extra heavy Scotch Flannelette. Regular Regina price 15c. On sale ..... 10c. yard  
1700 yards Colored Shirting. Good value other stores 15c. Sale price ..... 10c. yard  
850 yards Canton Flannel, wide width. Regular 12½c. and 13c. at other stores. On sale ..... 7½c. yard

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Sugar, 16 lb. for ..... \$1.00  
Every day in the week.  
Corn ..... 10c. can  
Every day in the week.  
Peas ..... 10c. can  
Every day in the week.  
Flour, Cook's Pride. Regular \$3.00. On sale ..... \$2.75  
Flour, Best Patent. Regular \$3.35. On sale ..... \$2.90

### Hardware

\$4000 worth must be cleared out at once at any price.

2 Bales English Door Mats. Regular \$1.00. On Sale 50c.

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Broad Street

Formerly Karl Bocz Store

## CREELMAN

History of Thiving in As Given by T Paper.

The town of Creelman, Colo. has now a new first issue, which appears today, has the following the town:

In presenting our first issue of Creelman and districts we do so believing time has arrived when have a news medium; and naturally felt it our duty to our prosperous future.

It was on the 28th of 1903 that the first sign appeared when Messrs W. R. Garthright pitched the where Creelman now stands a few weeks opened a store under the firm name of Messrs. This was months previous to the the townsite, although, and was grading both and west of here.

When we look back on those pioneer days well do let the then sparsely settled with its odd low so which at a distance appear huge block mounds. Here might be seen a lumber as it took from three days according to roads, to from Wolsley, Arcola, as the case might be, building was a very expensive. These were the homes of settlers: the Davises, Keans, Steads, Dunning, Wilsons, McKees, Allens, Andrews, Finsters, Dickies, Monmads, Mustards, Hartt, Hewys, Senkbeils, Stewart, Le Plasters, McLares, Galbraiths, Smyths, Scott (Geo.), Luckys, Knight, Patersons, Frenches and others.

To the settlers who have few years waiting, 1903 was a welcome one. There was in course of a mass meeting was called to consider the establishment of a office. There were set brought forth as suits the town in embryo— and Garret. It was decided

"A" On behalf Strong w

At the o near Toronto, bearing on the

On his way of Edward Sanatorium by permission of King Edward V. erior-General's ca in its progress outa Cycle & Motor Co crowd of its c contribution of on lars was handed General, a dona Toronto Free Hos sumptives.

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An institut her inability to p Seventy-five hundred if the re To make and maintenance.

Where Every c His Excell consumptives, by

Contribution W. J. Gage, Esq. 347 King Street