

sible, the recurrence of fires arising from sparks from the engine. If they adopt that principle, it will save the forests and relieve the company of a good deal of trouble and expense.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—No doubt, and the enforcement of this clause will be a strong incentive to do it.

The motion was agreed to, the Bill was then read a second time.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the Bill.

(In the Committee.)

On clause 1,

Hon. Mr. WILSON—In the first clause, railway, telephone, telegraph and express companies are mentioned. I desire to know if the rural telephones will be compelled to comply with the requirements of this Bill. In various parts of the provinces, farmers have established rural telephones, and it would appear to me almost unreasonable to compel them to comply with the terms of this Bill.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—All it does is to bring them more or less under the control of the commission, which is probably for their advantage inasmuch as the commission can regulate the rules of the larger companies which have heretofore been a source of great trouble to them.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Then the Act would apply to rural telephones as well?

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—Apparently it does.

The clause was adopted.

On clause 5,

Hon. Mr. WILSON (St. Thomas). Will this enable the farmers' telephone companies to enter into an arrangement with the Bell Telephone Company. Is there power under this clause to amalgamate?

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I should think not. That is not what the hon. gentleman would want. If they

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amalgamate with the larger company, they will be swallowed up completely.

Hon. Sir RICHARD SCOTT—The Board has held that connection can be made with the Bell Company for 12 months, when a new investigation is to be made.

The clause was adopted.

On clause 13,

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—This makes an important change in the Railway Act. There are railways that have been subsidized by both governments, and largely aided by subsidies voted by municipalities, which, after having been run for some time and found unprofitable, have been discontinued. I should like to know whether this clause goes so far as to compel those companies to operate their lines?

Hon. Sir RICHARD SCOTT—Provision is made for that particular case.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I am very glad to hear it, because in the county where I live there are some lines in that position.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I think that particular case was in the mind of the minister when he framed the clause.

Hon. Sir RICHARD SCOTT—The subsidy becomes a mortgage on the property.

Hon. Mr. DAVID, from the committee, reported the Bill without amendment.

The Bill was then read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELDS AT QUEBEC BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill No. 222, An Act respecting the National Battlefields at Quebec.

The Bill was read the first time.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT moved the second reading of the Bill. He said: This Bill ratifies the acquirement of a property or two in the neighbourhood