

The Toronto City Council has been informed that the Co. has no desire to renew its contract with the City on the old terms & that it sees no reason why Toronto subscribers should not pay the same rates as Montreal subscribers.

In reference to the recent changes in the Bell Co.'s tariff for long distance telephoning it may be pointed out that long distance lines were originally single & of iron. Transmission was poor but the distances were short. The 5 minutes unit was then in force. Now long distance lines are double, that is 2 wires instead of 1, & are built of heavy copper, with the result that transmission is good over very long distances. This result has only been accomplished by a very greatly increased expenditure of capital. Safely it may be said that lines now cost three times what they did in early days. As a result of the improved transmission it has been found by actual experience that subscribers are able to do more talking in 3 minutes than in 5 minutes under the old conditions. In order to get a fair return on the greatly increased capital invested the Co. had to either increase the tariff rate or reduce the time unit. As the majority of conversations can easily be condensed into 3 minutes, it is fairer and better to reduce the unit rather than make people pay unnecessarily a higher rate. The 3 minutes unit has been in force east of Toronto for many years & the recent change makes the unit uniform throughout Canada. Coincident with this change of unit the Co. has abolished the non-subscriber charge. This change is of the greatest importance, not only to the mass of people who are not subscribers & who formerly have had to pay a higher rate, but also to the merchants and manufacturers who are receiving orders from non-subscribers. It is needless to say that the cheaper the non-subscriber can speak to the merchant the more chance there is of the merchant receiving his orders. Reduced night rates have been established under which persons can speak between 6 p.m. & 6 a.m. for about half the usual day charge. The slight change in the time unit west of Toronto is much more than offset therefore by the very substantial reductions mentioned. While people only pay for the time they are actually talking it must not be forgotten that it takes on an average about 5 minutes to establish a connection. The Co. therefore gives about 8 minutes use of the line for the rates which it charges.

The Co. is building a metallic line from St. Thomas to Simcoe via Tilsonburg.

The Co.'s office at St. Thomas, Ont. has been remodeled.

Nova Scotia Telephone Co.

At the annual meeting in Halifax June 14, 5,552 shares were represented. Following is a statement of accounts to Jan. 31, 1900:

ASSETS.	
Exchanges and plant.....	\$286,179 88
Stores.....	7,537 78
Stock in other companies.....	21,530 00
Real estate, buildings, etc.....	15,436 40
Amounts due Co.....	3,716 72
Due by agencies, including Halifax.....	7,703 89
Cash on hand and in bank.....	2,147 28
	\$344,251 94
LIABILITIES.	
Capital stock.....	\$200,000 00
Bonds.....	20,000 00
Bills payable.....	1,137 54
Sundry amounts due.....	18,545 96
Depreciation account.....	3,000 00
Dividend 21 payable Mar. 1, 1900.....	3,000 00
Accident reserve account.....	8,902 50
Insurance reserve account.....	9,000 00
Contingent account and sinking fund.....	55,417 99
Profit and loss account.....	25,267 95
	\$314,251 94
PROFIT AND LOSS.	
1899.	
Feb. 1st. By balance.....	\$23,592 63
1900.	
By net earnings.....	16,675 32
	\$40,267 95

To Dividend paid June 1, 1899.....	\$ 3,000 00
" Dividend paid Sept. 1, 1899.....	3,000 00
" Dividend 20, paid Dec. 1, 1899.....	3,000 00
" Dividend 21, payable Mar. 1, 1900.....	3,000 00
Transferred to sinking fund.....	3,000 00
	\$15,000 00

Balance carried forward \$25,267 95

The following directors were unanimously elected: B. W. Chipman, R. Uniacke, C. F. Fraser, C. F. Sise, R. L. Borden, A. C. Cogswell, B. F. Pearson; the latter succeeding the late Dr. Haley.

Considerable discussion followed with reference to improvements in the service at Halifax, & the opinion was generally expressed that the time had come when a long step in advance should be made. The Co. had delayed in the past out of consideration for the rapid strides in electrical improvements, & had been fully rewarded by the fact that now the relay switch board is an assured success, & a distinct step in advance of the multiple board, & several steps in advance of the board now in use by the Co. Although it would cost probably \$120,000, yet it was thought advisable that a double metallic circuit should be installed throughout the city, & as far as possible the use of the long distance telephone should be encouraged.

Mr. Sise explained that the installation of this board meant an average possible conversation capacity of 3 minutes instead of 5, the reduction in the operating expenses arising from the doing away with the clinch battery cell, & inspection & reduction of operators at the head office.

The stockholders authorized the directors to issue \$100,000 stock of the Co., the same to be first offered to the stockholders at par, the proceeds to be utilized for the improvements above referred to.

General Telephone Matters.

The Edmonton, Alta., Telephone Co. is arranging for night & Sunday service.

The Citizens Telephone & Electric Co., Rat Portage, Ont., is putting up a 2-inch cable for the transmission of power.

A telephone line in which the Bonny River Lumber Co. is said to be interested, is being built between St. Martin's & St. John, N.B.

The Pontiac Telephone Co., with headquarters at Bryson, Que., had its property sold by the sheriff recently to W. McCochon for \$1,700.

The Kinnear's Mills Telephone Co., of Kinnear's Mills, Que., is about to build a line from Thedford Mines to Kinnear's Mills, 12 miles.

The Vernon & Nelson Telephone Co. has been improving its service in the Boundary District, B.C. A fourth wire has been strung between Phoenix & Nelson.

E. H. Boss has resigned the local management of the Bell Telephone Co. at St. Catharines, Ont., to enter the Niagara, St. Catharines & Toronto Ry. Co.'s employ.

The trolley to the Pyramids is not the only example of the penetration of electricity into the everyday life of semi-civilized Egypt, the telephone being right on its heels. The telephone company of Egypt operates from headquarters in Cairo & branches in Alexandria, Port Said, & other towns. Inter-connection, however, has not yet been realized, as the Government has opposed its establishment on the ground that it would diminish State telegraph receipts. However, it is hoped that consent will soon be given for this extension. Telephone girls are not employed in Egypt, & the telephone men have to speak English, French, Italian, Arabic & modern Greek.

Among the Express Companies.

Evangeliste Joly was found guilty, June 14, of stealing \$14,000 from the Dominion Ex. Co., at Joliette, Que., and was sentenced to 9 years in penitentiary.

The Dominion Ex. Co. has withdrawn the restrictions against accepting money in any amount, or notes, drafts & accounts for collection in Joliette, Que., & agents are authorized to accept shipments of any kind for Joliette, to be way-billed at tariff rates.

At St. Catharines, Ont., June 13, Stinson, a former messenger of the Dominion Ex. Co., was tried on a charge of stealing two money packages from the Co., in Dec. last, the jury acquitting him. He was released on bail, to be tried on another charge laid by the Co.

The Western Ex. Co. has opened routes on the Marinette, Tomahawk & Western Ry., between Tomahawk & Spirit Falls, Wis., & the Spirit Falls & Brannon Stage route between Spirit Falls & Brannon, Wis. Offices have been opened at Boston, Mich; Balfour & Donnybrook, N.D.; Bay Mills, Brannon, Rockmast & Spirit Falls, Wis.

The Dominion Ex. Co. has opened offices on the C.P.R.'s Columbia & Western Ry. at Phoenix & Midway, B.C. Offices have also been opened in B.C., at Fife, Farrer, Hills, Porteous, Summit, Thrums, Tunnel & Wanklyn; in Manitoba, at Sinclair, Bowswan, Fishers & Keyes; in Ontario, at Folger & Strathcona, & in Quebec, at Bordeaux.

Owing to the extension of the U.S. coasting laws to Honolulu, business originating in the U. S. cannot be taken to Vancouver to be forwarded in British bottoms to Honolulu, & agents of the Dom. Ex. Co. in the U. S. must refuse such business. This does not, however, apply to business originating in Canada or in Europe, destined to Honolulu; this class of business may be accepted and routed via Vancouver, as heretofore.

The traveling auditors of the Great Northern Ry. have been made joint employees of the Great Northern Express. Their duties, so far as the express is concerned, will be to check & transfer offices where the railway agent acts jointly for the railway & the express, & generally look after the accounts of the express at such offices. The G. N. Express retains as exclusive employees three of its traveling agents, whose duties will be to check or transfer the accounts at all exclusive express offices, & as heretofore, solicit & work up business at all places in the territory assigned to them—visiting, when necessary, any of the offices that are joint, & to perform such other duties as may be given them by the General Manager, the Superintendent, or the General Western Agent.

On account of low water, Dominion Ex. agencies at Fort Frances & Mine Centre, Ont., have not yet been established; until further notice, shipments for all points in Rainy River district, including Fort Frances & Mine Centre, should be receipted for & charges collected to Rat Portage, Ont., only.

The Dominion Ex. Co. has placed R. E. Helme, Route Agent, in charge of all offices on main line of C.P.R., west of Moose Jaw, Assa., to and including Medicine Hat, Assa.; offices on Crow's Nest branch, including Fort Steele, & offices on North Star branch, & all offices in Kootenay district south of Arrowhead, B.C. W. J. Kirby, Route Agent, has charge of all offices on main line west of Medicine Hat, Assa., including offices in the State of Washington; Edmonton branch; Macleod branch south of Calgary to & including High River; Arrowhead branch; Shuswap & Okanagan branch; & offices on Okanagan Lake.

The Alaska Pacific Ex. Co. has issued the following circular: This Co. has secured exclusive privileges over the White Pass & Yukon Ry. operating between Skagway and White Horse. We have also arranged for similar service with the Canadian Development Co., a steamer line operating between White Horse (end of rail line) & Dawson City. The C.D. Co. has already placed in service on the upper Yukon 12 steamers,