

fitting up is now in progress. It is expected that the exchange will be formally opened in Oct.

The Attorney-General of Manitoba recently stated that it was the intention of the Government at the next session of the Legislature to introduce a bill providing for the establishment of a government owned and operated system of telephones, commencing with a trunk line and finally developing into branches throughout the province.

Early in the year the Amherstburg, Ont., town council granted a franchise to the Ontario Independent Telephone Co. In June only three instruments had been installed, and later on notice was given by the council that the franchise would be repealed unless its terms were promptly carried out. Nothing has since been done, and it is understood that the necessary steps will be taken to repeal the franchise.

The Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Co. has been incorporated under the Ontario Companies' Act, with a capital of \$40,000 and offices at Stouffville, Ont., to take over the business of the Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Association, and to carry on a general telephone business in the townships of Markham, Whitchurch, King, Pickering and Uxbridge. The provisional directors are; J. H. Ratcliffe, F. A. Dales, D. W. Heise, of Stouffville, Ont.; A. D. Bruce, G. Forester and G. A. Brodie.

The Telephone Co. of Prince Edward Island is making a number of improvements in its system. The exchange lines at Montague, Georgetown, Souris and Murray River are being rebuilt, a new switch board is being put in at Montague, the exchange lines at Summerside are being extended and in Charlottetown the common return system is being superseded by metallic circuit and a storage battery plant is being installed. A line is to be built from Wood Island to Little Sands, about eight miles, which will serve as a connecting link, and will give a third trunk line to Murray Harbor district.

The formal judgment of Justice Morrison in the case of the City of Vancouver against the British Columbia Telephone Co., sets forth that the city engineer in appending his signature to the plans of the company gave the consent contemplated by the Legislature, and that the city had not sustained any damages by reason of the company having proceeded with the work. The differences between the city and the company have been adjusted, the latter agreeing to set apart a special conduit in its underground system for the use of the city, with a special wire for fire alarm and patrol purposes, the company laying the conduit, and the city paying for the piping and wiring. It was also decided that each party should pay its own costs in the recent litigation.

The Eastern Telephone Co. held its annual meeting at Sydney, N.S., Aug. 7, when directors were elected and other business transacted. The annual report and statement of accounts has not been published. We are informed that the company expended a large amount of money in preparing overhead and underground cables, extensions of lines, etc., looking to future business, which has not yet materialized, and that the statement is not a satisfactory one. The business however is improving and it is hoped that the payment of dividends will be resumed next year. Following are the directors for the current year: B. W. Chipman, C. F. Fraser, F. B. McCurdy, R. L. Borden, J. Y. Payzant and J. Mackintosh, of Halifax; Dr. Mackeen and H. Donkin, of Glace Bay; B. Archibald, North Sydney; D. Finlayson, Arichat; James MacDonald, West Bay, and Judge Dodd, W. Crowe, J. E. Burchell and A. C. Ross, of Sydney.

Nova Scotia's Telephone Systems.

The evidence given before the House of Commons Select Committee to inquire into the various telephone systems in operation in Canada, by J. H. Winfield, Manager of the Nova Scotia Telephone Co., Halifax, N.S., contained much information of interest not only in regard to his own company, but also in reference to the whole telephone system of the province. The facts which follow are taken from the report of the Select Committee, and are arranged in narrative form, as being more convenient than as published question and answer.

The first telephone business was started in the Maritime Provinces by the Bell Telephone Co. about 1887, and subsequently an opposition company was started locally. After a short fight the Bell Telephone Co. sold out to what is now the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. This local company operated also in New Brunswick as well as in Nova Scotia. A local opposition was started in New Brunswick, and the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. sold out its interests in that province to it, reserving Nova Scotia as its field of operations. Since that time the company had gone on developing and covering the country with a network of telephone lines. At the present time there was in the province one telephone to every 74 inhabitants; two years ago there was one telephone in operation to every 85 inhabitants. The Nova Scotia Telephone Co. operated on the mainland, the Eastern Telephone Co. operated in Cape Breton Island, and there were in addition a number of local companies operating in restricted areas. A list of the several companies, showing the number of instruments operated by each, was put in evidence by Mr. Winfield, as follows:

Nova Scotia Telephone Co.	3,511
Eastern Telephone Co.	923
Valley Telephone Co.	700
Cumberland Telephone Co.	250
Yarmouth Amalgamated Telephone Co.	235
Queens' County Telephone Co.	180
Parrsboro' Shore Telephone Co.	120
Antigonish & Sherbrooke Telephone Co.	60
Central Telephone Co.	25
Barrington Telephone Co.	20
Cheverie Telephone Co.	15
Fox Harbor Telephone Co.	15
Maitland Telephone Co.	15
Westport and Digby Telephone Co.	15
Wallace Bay Telephone Co.	13
Conn's Mills Telephone Co.	12
Yarmouth Telephone Co.	12
Elmsdale, Gore and Rawdon Telephone Co.	10
Maitland and Noel Telephone Co.	10
Wentworth Telephone Co.	10
Economy and Five Islands Telephone Co.	8
Hammond's Plains Telephone Co.	8
Blandford Telephone Co.	6
Bass River Telephone Co.	5
New Ross Telephone Co.	3
Total	6,181

The Nova Scotia Telephone Co. has a line from Halifax to Truro, New Glasgow, Pictou and to the Strait of Canso, where connection is made with the lines of the Eastern Telephone Co.; another line goes through to Amherst, where connection is made with the New Brunswick Telephone Co.'s lines. It also has a line connecting Amherst and Pictou, another from Halifax to Windsor, and still another from Halifax to Bridgewater. Near Bridgewater connection is made with the Queen's County Telephone Co., which operates throughout that county, serving Liverpool, Shelburne and some smaller places. Other independent companies connected Windsor and Digby, Windsor and Truro, Elmsdale and West Gore, Stewiacke and Ship's Harbor, Brookfield and Upper Stewiacke. The various points connected by all the companies were not given, but Mr. Winfield stated that several of these were connected one with another, and most were connected with the Nova Scotia Telephone Co.'s lines. The Eastern Telephone Co. had its headquarters in Sydney, and operated

long distance lines, connecting with the Nova Scotia Telephone Co.'s line at the Strait of Canso. These local lines were promoted by the Nova Scotia Telephone Co., which supplied most of the outfits, as it was essential that there should be something like uniformity to ensure the long distance service. The local lines were kept in repair by the owners, who did most of the work of getting out the poles and stringing the wire. They were put up and maintained therefore much cheaper than they could be by a large company, and the owners would be satisfied with a service on their own line which they would not tolerate as subscribers to a company line. An endeavor was made by the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. to establish rural lines in its own territory and it put up ten miles of line between Pictou and Durham. A canvass was made for subscribers at \$20 a year, and only three subscribers were obtained; the rate was reduced to \$15 a year but no additional subscribers could be induced to take the service. After the line had been in operation for three years an investigation was made and it was found that the service was being given to 60 or 70 people for \$60 a year, the farmers at different points clubbing together to get the benefit of the service. The farmers, said Mr. Winfield, wanted the service, but were not prepared to pay for it. In granting connection to the rural companies the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. made a formal agreement that each should accept business from the other; that they would not overlap each other's territory, that the rural companies shall not extend their lines without permission, and the Nova Scotia Telephone undertook to protect the local companies from competition in their own territory. The rate for the connection varied with circumstances of each case, but the charge for the long distance service was the ordinary rate.

The Nova Scotia Telephone Co. has exchanges at Halifax, with 1,950 instruments; Amherst, Antigonish, Bridgewater, Lunenburg, Mahone Bay, New Glasgow, Oxford, Pictou, Pugwash, Shubenacadie, Truro, Windsor, Wallace, Springhill, and a few smaller places. The company also has about 200 toll stations. The Halifax lines were metallic circuits and central energy switchboard, the rates being \$45 for business instruments and \$30 for those in private houses; in Amherst, where there are 212 telephones, the rates are \$25 for business telephones and \$20 for house telephones; at Bridgewater, where there are 101 instruments, the rates are \$20 for business and \$15 for house telephones; at all places where there are fewer than 30 instruments the rate is \$15 a year all round. Telephone rates are subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, under the terms of a Nova Scotia Act of 1903. The proportion of toll and long distance business was as 90 is to 35. The financial year of the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. ends Jan. 31, and the statement for 1904-05 had not been audited at the time Mr. Winfield gave evidence before the committee. The company has paid dividends at the rate of 6% per annum, and maintained a contingent and depreciation account, an accident reserve and an insurance reserve, the two latter amounted to \$10,000 each, and the contingent and depreciation account at Jan. 31, 1904, was \$73,448.95. The capital stock amounted to \$447,650, of which the Bell Telephone Co. held \$66,450 or about one-fourteenth. The assets of the company included, at Jan. 31, 1904, \$122,530 of stock in other telephone companies.

An independent telephone line is to be constructed from Bancroft to Maynooth, Ont., in connection with the line already existing between Bancroft and Eldorado.