CITY WILL MAKE INVESTIGATION

Into Mr. Neill's Independent Telepone Proposition

WHICH IS LORIMER SYSTEM

Mr. Rogers as Not Present at the Meeting Monday Afternoon, but the Proposition of Mr. Neill Gave the Aldermen Something to Do—Bell's Offer Laid Over.

Oscar Wentworth Rogers was not present at the special meeting of the Finance Committee of the City Council held on Monday afternoon, and his "proposition" cut no figure with the Committee although the meeting was called specially to consider it. A new proposition—the one referred to in Tuesday's Times—caught the fancy of the members to such an extent that they resolved to investigate it before doing anything further with the offer of the Bell Company.

Chairman Bond, Ald. Burkholder, Ald. Waddell, Biggs, Coombe, Hill and Nicholson were the members present, and the Mayor and City Solicitor were also present; Messrs. H. C. Baker, B. J. Throand, S. C. Mewburn, representing the Bell Telephone Company; J. Gauld representing Mr. Rogers and Robert Neill representing the Canadian Machine Telephone Company, of which he is acting manager.

Both Chairman Dunn and Mayor Hendrie had a great deal of information at their fingers' ends about Mr. Rogers' statement in particular, and about independent telephones in general, but neither took any part in the discussion, keeping their information for later use.

At the outset Chairman Dunn read the following letter from Mr. Neill:

Hamilton, June 30th, 1902.

Ald. Dunn, Chairman Finance Committee, Hamilton, Ont.:

Dear Sir,—I represent the Canadian Machine Telephone Co., now being incorporated to manufacture the Lorimer system of Automatic Telephone Exchanges in Canada. I have noticed by the press that your Council is about to grant a telephone franchise in your city, and therefore take this opportunity to present the merits of the Lorimer system of telephony. Therefore, on behalf of our company, which will be incorporated probably next week, our patents are fully protected in all countries by patents. It is a practicable, marketable machine in full working order. On behalf of our company I invite you before parting with your city franchise to have the machine investigated by a committee of your Council, in company with a recognized expert, of your own selection, but not identified in any way with competing company.

We claim for our system cheaper service ($20 to $30 per year), continuous secret service day and night, automatic connections, greater efficiency, installation, operation and maintenance, than any other system in the world; to which statements I invite the strictest scrutiny and most rigid investigation. Hon. A. T. Wood has kindly allowed me to refer him as to the merits of the apparatus, he having made, in his private behalf, an exhaustive investigation, on the strength of which he has become financially interested in the American patents.

The Canadian company is now being backed by financially strong people; the factories are now being made, in fact nearly complete; the staff of expert workmen is now being trained to operate the Canadian factories, and in the very near future we will be in a position to talk business for the installation of this machine. I would respectfully ask that my claims for the status be investigated before granting up your city telephone franchise for the next five years.

Yours respectfully,
ROBERT NEILL.

Mr. Neill had nothing to say in addition to what he had stated in his letter. His company, he said, expected to get its charter in a few days and its patents about the same time. He had left committee photographs of the plant, and said that within six months the company would be in a position to begin manufacturing a 200-telephone exchange within four months to be in position to demonstrate its system. It was the company's intention to install a plant in or near Toronto for one of the towns nearby. He asked the city to have a competent expert examine the machine, which would be demonstrated at Pickering.

Ald. Waddell asked if Mr. Neill was in a position to install a 1,000 'phone exchange, but Mr. Neill had a great deal of difficulty in getting an answer. Finally Mr. Neill said his company could do anything any other one else could do, and a little more.

Ald. Burkholder asked if the company would be less in Canada, and Mr. Neill said that the company would be in position to begin manufacturing within sixty days.

"Have you any patents?" asked Ald. Waddell.

"They are assured," was the reply.

But the patents had not issued, persisted Ald. Waddell.

"But they are as good as the reply.

In the course of his remarks Mr. Neill stated that he had seen in operation the company's system at Pickering and at Waddell—And he had been to Canada and Niagara Falls—We have been acting in good faith.

Ald. Biggar proposed that the committee should inquire into the matter, and report to the next meeting of the Finance Committee, which would be the same as the Mayor's proposition, and would be the same as the Mayor's proposition, and would be the same as the Mayor's proposition, and