

subscriptions are asked. No board of provisional directors is named.

Some Maritime Province papers have given currency to a rumor that the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. would extend its line to Sydney, which would include cable connection across the Strait of Canso. We are informed that the matter has merely been spoken of, & has not been considered by the Board. Such a line would probably cost \$50,000, & it is not believed that there is enough present business to warrant such an outlay.

The New Brunswick Telephone Co. has decided to build a line from Fredericton to Chatham, N.B., & has let a contract to J. Barnes for supplying & erecting poles & cross arms & erecting the wire, the latter of which the Co. will furnish. The Co. is also reported to have closed a contract for a line from St. John to St. George, & on to St. Stephen, where connection will be secured with Calais, Me., which will give connection with other parts of that State, the system connecting with Calais being a pretty extensive one.

J. H. Jewell, claiming to represent the London & Berlin Banking Corporation, which is incorporated pursuant to the laws of England, has applied to the Toronto City Council asking for the right to lay conduits, pipes & mains, together with their connections, for the purpose of supplying telephones & to make the necessary excavations upon the public streets, etc., for the purpose of construction & repair. The petitioner says the Corporation will agree to furnish each department of the municipal government telephones free of charge, also to furnish telephones for business purposes at \$34, & for residential purposes at \$18 a year.

The New Westminster & Burrard Inlet Telephone Co. has presented a petition to the B.C. Legislature, stating that under the powers conferred by its act of incorporation passed in 1886 by the Legislature, it has established a telephone system in Vancouver, & has been operating the same for about 10 years, that about \$300,000 have been invested in the construction of the system, the greater part of the capital being owned by shareholders outside of the province, & that the plant, &c., is in good working order, & will not require in the ordinary course any alterations or repairs on any extensive scale for some years. The Co. protests against certain clauses of a bill which has been introduced in the Legislature on behalf of the city of Vancouver for the purpose of amending the city's incorporation act, & claims that the city should not be allowed to enter into competition with the Co. without first compensating the Co. on equitable terms. Other objections are taken to the bill, particularly in regard to the power which the city seeks to impose a license fee.

#### Telephone Competition Impracticable.

The Windsor, Ont., Record says:—"The gobbling up of the Detroit Telephone Co. by the Bell Co. reminds us of the attempt that was made to inflict two telephone systems upon Windsor. For a year or two past, the City of Detroit has had to bear the expense & annoyance of two telephone systems. Every business man was compelled to pay for two phones in his place of business, & many of them in their residences. The relief that this absorption of the second telephone company has been to the business men of Detroit is told by one of the papers. The Detroit News said:—

"No city is big enough for two permanent competing telephone systems, & that one of the local concerns should absorb the other was as inevitable from the beginning as sunrise & sunset. It is all very fine to theorize about competition; but competition in respect to telephone service must be as unsatisfactory to the customers as it is unprofitable to the companies. Telephone service is one of those

natural monopolies created by the very force of circumstances. There can be competition in telegraph service, in the express business, & with certain limitations, in the railway business, but competition in telephone service means a great deal of annoyance, if no increased expense, to the user, if he tries to secure as efficient a service through two companies as he could secure through one. Now that it has been gobbled up, eyes, suckers & tentacles, we have no disposition to sneer at the educational & humanizing influences that Mr. Pingree's quondam tame octopus exerted over the extraordinarily repulsive brute that the Bell Co. chaperoned; but we are not prepared to shed any tears because the previously mentioned tame octopus has been gathered into the omnivorous maw of its loathsome rival. It was ordained in the beginning that one of them had to go, & it was evident as well that the octopus with the fewer opportunities for increasing its rations would stand the less chance in such a contest, in which only the fittest can survive."

"The business men of Windsor will now appreciate the words of warning raised by The Record when the attempt was made to foist two telephone systems upon us & will thank the aldermen who stood out successfully against it. Two telephone systems & two street railway systems have been an expensive & fruitful source of annoyance to the people of Detroit & to those visiting that city. They were largely the outcome of political demagogues who were seeking for public favor. It is often a cheap way of gaining notoriety & a certain quality of popularity to denounce corporations, but it is often as unfair as it is injurious, where corporations are in possession of the franchise of a natural monopoly, such as a telephone or street railway system, then every precaution should be taken in the way of regulations to protect the interests of the public. Companies in possession of these great natural utilities should be compelled to give a reasonably good service & not be allowed to take excessive profits from the people. On the other hand, they should not be subjected to petty annoyances & neither should their capital be sacrificed or put in jeopardy by irresponsible popularity hunters or corporation smashers."

#### The Bell Telephone Company.

The Co. is constructing a fire alarm system in St. Thomas, Ont.

In London, Ont., the Co. is placing a number of its wires underground.

H. L. Simpson, Local Manager at Owen Sound, has been transferred to St. Catharines, Ont.

We are officially informed that the Co. has decided to construct a long distance line between Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie & Neepawa, & that the work will be proceeded with as soon as weather will permit.

It is rumored in Montreal that the Co. will enter suit against certain local manufacturers of phones on the ground of patent infringements. President Sise has given notice that the Co. owns Canadian letters patent 35,920, granted to J. J. Carly for improvements in telephonic circuits & arrangements, covering all forms of bridging bells.

The Co. has recently completed & opened for business a heavy long distance copper metallic circuit line between Ottawa, Carleton Place, Smith's Falls & Brockville. Work on this line was begun last May at Ottawa, & was expected to be completed in Oct., but owing to the quantity of rock encountered on the road, the work was somewhat delayed. The Co. used a portable steam rock drill to drill the holes before blasting, & for this purpose 10,000 lbs. of dynamite were used. The completion of the line required upwards of 3,500 poles, 4,000 cross arms & 75,000 lbs. of

copper wire. This line gives Ottawa a most direct & perfect long distance service with Buffalo, Toronto, Hamilton, London & other western points, & at the same time a reduction has been made in the rate for conversations to such places, as formerly business had to go via Montreal to reach them. Additional copper circuits have been constructed between Smith's Falls, Irish Creek & Brockville, & long distance offices opened at North Augusta & Algonquin; also a heavy copper circuit from Brockville to Prescott connecting direct to Ogdensburg through the new submarine cable across the St. Lawrence river at Prescott, which was laid about a month ago. This will give Ottawa direct & prompt connection with Utica, Watertown, Ogdensburg & other Central New York points. The Co. has also constructed an additional copper wire to Annapolis, which will be used to convert the existing single line to a metallic, greatly improving the service to upper Ottawa points. With the above new long distance lines & those already in use, Ottawa will have a long distance telephone service second to none, which may be further improved, as the Co. is considering the construction of new copper metallic lines between Carleton Place & Pembroke, & Perth & Smith's Falls, during the coming spring.

#### Among the Express Companies.

The Dominion Ex. Co. announces, until further notice, shipments of money & c. o. d. shipments must not be received for points on Montford & Gatineau Colonization Ry.

The Dominion Ex. Co. has opened offices at Garden River, Dinorwic, & Busted, Ont.; Cascades, Que.; Cowan, Man.; & Pasqua, Assa. The office at Temiskaming, Ont., has been closed.

The Maritime Ex. Co.'s head office has been removed from Halifax to Kentville, N.S. W. Fraser continues as Manager, in addition to his new position as Assistant Superintendent of the Dominion Atlantic Ry.

The Dominion Ex. Co. has opened a route on the extension of the Great Northwest Central Ry. from Hamiota to Miniota, Man., 20 miles. Offices have been opened on the extension at Crandell, Miniota & Minitonas.

D. C. Jackson, heretofore Superintendent of the Alaska Pacific Express Co., with headquarters at Skagway, Alaska, has been transferred to Seattle, Wash., & in addition to his duties as Superintendent, will also have charge of the auditing work.

The Dominion Ex. Co. has opened the following routes:—C.P.R. Snowflake branch, between Wood Bay & Snowflake, Man., 16 miles; C.P.R. Waskada branch, between Deloraine & Waskada, Man., 18 miles; Vankleek Hill & Hawkesbury wagon route, between Vankleek Hill & Hawkesbury, Ont.

The Dominion Ex. Co. gives notice that from Jan. 1, 1900 the clause printed on the face of each money order of the A. & B. series, requiring them to be presented within 3 months after date of issue, is no longer in effect, & these orders are payable at any time after the ordinary conditions have been complied with, regardless of the date of issue.

The Dominion Ex. Co. gives notice that shipments of money in any amount for Joliette, Que., office must not be received, nor must any notes, drafts, or accounts for collection at that point be received. This does not, however, prohibit the acceptance of merchandise shipments with bills to be collected c.o.d. This notice is issued in consequence of the repeated robberies of the express office at Joliette.

W. S. Stout, General Manager of the Dominion Express Company, whose portrait appears on pg. 33, was born at Havana, Ill., in