

## APPENDIX No. 1

services there, it would be more convenient and it would enable you to give a night and a day service, it would pay for that no matter how small the centre would be. If all this business was centred in one place, you would get an efficient service which it is hard now to do.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK.—The first thing is to get a fundamental scheme and then you can build on that, but I think your point is one which might fairly be considered. I have simply roughly planned out this proposal and will be glad of any criticism. I think that the report I have from that gentleman who is in Toronto will be of some use. Mr. Dagger was in connection with the telephone system for some years and may have some useful knowledge to impart and perhaps will be a useful witness. I would also suggest that the committee engage Mr. Pownall to prepare the summary to which I have referred.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN.—You did not develop that point of municipal centres—whether they would be connected with the Dominion system, or did you not want to go that far?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK.—I do not know how far it will be necessary to have an office and switchboard—a central office. Technical knowledge on that point would be necessary before we can develop a plan of that kind.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN.—Your system certainly goes as far as connecting with local centres?

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK.—Oh, yes; they will be connected group by group. What I think is, I understood from Mr. Dagger, that a certain number of 'phones can be used without a switchboard.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN.—Something like 20, that is on a line with the farmers' system.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK.—We could devise, perhaps, a method by which one group would be connected with another.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN.—That is the point I referred to; that would require a switchboard, or it might be accomplished by an automatic system.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK.—We had better leave that until we know more about the details. As I say, I am only giving you very crude ideas, which may or may not be practicable. Mr. Dagger will give us some ideas which will be of value, because he was for many years connected with the telephone systems, and he made this report to me. I think he was sent over to the states; I do not remember now, but he professes in his report to give particulars of the working of the system over there, and when I get this report here, if you like, we will have him summoned. There will probably be a great deal of evidence volunteered to us by the public. We have power to send for persons and papers, and I think we should give publicity to the fact that this committee will welcome any evidence, so that the public will feel at liberty to offer it.

Ex-Mayor Cook, of Ottawa.—I have been asked to appear on behalf of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, and to assure the committee of the hearty co-operation of that body in prosecuting this inquiry. In this connection, I may be permitted to call attention to the fact that at the annual convention of the Union in London last September, the telephone question was thoroughly discussed and a resolution was unanimously passed, on motion of Controller Hubbard, of Toronto, urging that the long-distance telephone business of Canada should be taken over and operated by the Government of the Dominion. The resolution is as follows:—'That in the opinion of this Union the long-distance telephone business of Canada should be taken over and operated by the Government of the Dominion, and legislation obtained whereby the local interests of telephone companies can be taken over and operated by the local municipi-