

der and hamper the work if we had to call the house together to remove an incompetent commissioner. What I wish to assure everyone is that by this and subsequent legislation (if necessary) we will place the commissioners in an absolutely independent position.

I would like to call the attention of the house to clause 3 of the Municipal union's recommendation: "That in the opinion of this executive it is essential for the success of a publicly owned telephone system throughout the province of Manitoba that local exchanges should be built in the chief centres, such as Winnipeg, Brandon and Portage la Prairie, therefore it is desirable, should these municipalities take no action in the matter of establishing municipal telephone system by the first of April next, that upon receiving a requisition from a sufficient number of ratepayers desiring to become users of the telephone to enable systems to be constructed in these respective centres upon a remunerative basis, the government shall proceed,

without delay, to establish a local exchange telephone service in any one of these places, or in all of them."

"The date, April 1 next, calls for immediate action by the municipalities named in the resolution, and I trust that they will immediately consider what action they desire to take."

The publication of the Municipal union's report obviates the necessity for further comment on the provisions of the bills now under consideration.

#### Government Proud of Result

"The government has every reason to be proud of the course which it has pursued in regard to its telephone policy, a course which will be consistently followed until every part of this province shall be provided with a telephone service owned and operated by the people, and the evils of private telephone monopoly in Manitoba swept away. We confidently submit our record in this respect to the approval of this house and country." (Loud and continued applause.)