

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

paper clippings that I had forwarded to Sir William Mulock some few days ago *re* telephones. I might just say that I was stopping in Pipestone in south-west Minnesota while absent, and found that the telephone system there was a local one, and all that was paid for house telephones was \$12 a year, office telephones being a little higher, and I found also that they readily got telephone communication through the Bell system outside. I found a similar state of affairs in Grand Valley, Minnesota, and I presume other towns and cities are the same throughout that state.

I trust that your committee will be successful in getting the public some relief from the present Bell Telephone monopoly.

I am, yours sincerely

JOHN A. MCGILLIVRAY.

**No. 142.**

Subject.—Contract with Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company.

THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF CANADA, (LIMITED.)

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, MONTREAL, May 31, 1905.

WALTER TODD, Esq.,

Secretary, Telephone Committee,  
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont.

DEAR MR. TODD,—I have just learned that it will be necessary for me to correct a statement I made, when I said that we had no contract with the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company. I was informed at the office that the contract had expired, but the clerks in going through so many, made an error in regard to this contract, which had not expired at the time I testified, but has since expired. We have to-day no contract with the R. & O. Company.

Will you please communicate this to the committee in order that the record may be correct.

Yours truly,

C. F. SISE,  
*President.*

**No. 143.**

T. B. RIDER & SON, GENERAL MERCHANTS.

FITCH BAY, QUE., May 26, 1905.

MY DEAR MR. MULOCK,—Just note telephone inquiry is bringing out some interesting information *re* the Bell Telephone Company's method. Of course it is hard pulling to get anything from them or their interior methods. Will give you a bit of telephone history made near here. A few years ago a telephone company, known as 'The Citizens' Telephone Company,' with head office at Waterloo, Shefford Co., P.Q., was started to give local service, giving farmers on party lines a rate of \$10 yearly. The Bell Company started in on a war of extermination through competition in rates, offering at \$10 the whole district of Bedford. Comprising the counties of Shefford, Brome and Mississquoi, giving free connection. In consequence the Citizens' went to the wall. After stifling their principal competitor, the Bell advanced price from \$15 to \$25, giving subscribers connection only to and with their connecting central. Won't make rates any longer for district of Bedford.

I know a farming section in Brome county where some eight or ten farmers had Bell 'phones under \$10 rate; now only two remain under new rates. Mr. Parmelee, M.P., can give further details. Best wishes,

T. B. RIDER.