

tion with his off-time distant neighbor and trading point has induced and enabled many a family to settle and remain upon the frontier. As an investment the telephone has proven to be one of the most economical and largest dividend-paying expenditures that a farmer can make.

Since that time, the Ontario Government, recognizing the great benefit of telephone service to the Province as well as to the locality, has enacted legislation by which the residents of any locality can by petition to its municipal council secure the provision of the necessary funds to install a local telephone system, and, recognizing the injustice of the exclusive Bell Telephone contracts above referred to, the said Ontario Government at the last session of the Legislature passed what is known as the Charters bill, and thereby provided a way by which any and all local telephone systems in the Province shall provide operating connections with adjoining telephone companies.

The effect of this legislation of the Ontario Government will prove to be far-reaching and very beneficial to all locally owned and operated telephone systems regardless of whether these local systems are municipally owned or privately owned. Under the operation of this law the Bell Telephone Company of Canada can no longer enforce contracts designed to retard the Independent telephone development in Ontario, and this fact was keenly recognized by the officers and attorneys of the said Bell Telephone Company when they labored so strenuously before the committee to have the authority of the Railway Board changed from "shall issue an order" to "may issue an order," which would have enabled the Bell Company to have fought every application in an effort to prevent the Board from granting the desired connection, thus making the proceedings so tedious and expensive that the smaller companies would be debarred from taking advantage of the Act. Independent telephone men and the public owe a debt of gratitude to the Hon. I. B. Lucas and the members of his committee for the firm stand they took in this matter.

Ontario Telephone Act.

During the past year we have tasted the first real fruit of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association in the enactment of the Ontario Telephone Act, which was introduced in the last session of the Ontario Legislature by Mr. Charters, who has publicly stated that the credit for initiating this legislation is due to Mr. Francis Dagger, secretary of the association, and who deserves a place in the telephone history of Canada, dating from his services as Dominion Government expert of the Mulock investigation down through his services as Government expert for the Provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and now as secretary of this association, and by his assistance to Mr. Charters and the Legislative Committee in the preparation and enactment of the law above referred to.

In my opinion the benefits of the Charters bill to the many Ontario operating telephone companies is dimly understood. You may not know it, but I am of the opinion that in addition to the many benefits the public will gain from this Act, it will prove to be the means of saving to the various Ontario companies, in the aggregate, over hundreds of thousands of dollars. This law, if I rightly understand its purport, will, when fully understood and complied with, nullify the efforts of the many pernicious private contracts by which the Bell Company hoped to strangle the Independent telephone movement in Canada.

Had it not been for the financial support, (feeble as it was), given to Mr. Dagger by the association during the past year, he could not have given the necessary time to assist in the good work, and now with the law enacted there

is coming up much detail regarding its application, and this will require the constant attention of some person capable of understanding the necessities of the situation.

Time for United Effort.

Now is the time for the association to jump in and be strong, now is the time for the members of the association and for all those interested in the extension of the telephone movement in Canada to contribute liberally to the support of the organization which is prepared to reap the benefits of the victory you have won. Mark you, and mark it well, the Bell Telephone Company will try, and try hard, to nullify the effect of this Charters bill. Without the watchful care of some person capable of comprehending the full situation you may expect at least effort upon the part of the Bell Company, through some unsuspected agent, to introduce adverse legislation. Now is the time when every independent operating telephone company and association in Canada, no matter whether under contract with the Bell Telephone Company or not, should contribute to the support of this Canadian Independent Telephone Association, and a contribution equal in amount to five cents for every telephone owned and operated by said owners is a good safe investment for you to make as a donation in support of the movement. If this is done, and done cheerfully and soon, this association can build up a strong compact working force from which practical timely aid can be expected by every Government, municipal and privately-owned telephone system in the Dominion of Canada.

During this session one of the delegates prepared a table showing a comparison of Independent and Bell telephones in a few districts. The table showed 4,512 Independent 'phones and 629 Bells, as follows:—

	Independents.		Bell.	
	Local.	Rural.	Local.	Rural.
Ingersoll	400	500	200	25
Welland	280	300	140	40
Caledon	100	162	5	3
Brussels	90	500	10	5
Harrietsville	320	2	2
Blenheim	87	343	61	4
Markham	88	280	45	21
Port Hope	10	360
Forest	72	233	15	..
Sombra	22	64	14	..
Wheatley	65	235	47	..
	1,214	3,298	539	100

ORDERS OF THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS OF CANADA.

12184—November 5—Amending Order No. 12119, dated October 27th, 1910, by striking out the words, "without their first being brought to a stop," in the third line of the operative part of the Order.

12185—November 7—Directing that Order No. 11767, dated 23rd September, 1910, which authorizes the C.P.R. Co. to open for the carriage of traffic portion of its line known as the Kipp-Aldersyde Branch, from mileage 0 to mileage 28.2, be rescinded, and that the trains of the C.P.R. Company over said portion of railway be limited to speed of thirty miles an hour.

12186—November 7—Authorizing the C.P.R. Co. to construct bridge No. 7.4 on the London Sub-Division, Ontario Division of its railway.

12187-8-9—November 7—Authorizing the C.N.O.R. Co. to construct its railway across the side road between Lots 9 and 10, Broken Front Concession, Township of Thurlow, County Hastings; and across the public road in Lot 2, Concession 1, city of Belleville, County Hastings, station 2340.88; and across MacDonald Street, between Lots 7 and 8, Broken Front Concession, city of Belleville, County Hastings, station 2260.47.

12190—November 7—Authorizing the C.N.R. Co. to construct its railway across twenty highways west of the second Meridian.

12191-2—November 7—Authorizing the C.O.R. to construct its railway across the public road between Lots 291 and 295, Parish of St. Benoit, Co. of Two Mountains, station 1266.15; and across the public road between Lots 223 and 218, Parish of St. Benoit, Co. of Two Mountains, station 1407.11.