

The Press on the Telephone Question.

Although it might be difficult to secure an expression of opinion from every newspaper man in Canada on the Telephone Question, yet a resolution adopted at the 47th annual meeting of the Canadian Press Association in February and which appears in the printed report which has just been issued, gives a very good clue to the general ideas of what the leading journalists in the Dominion think about it.

In the Presidential address, Mr. John A. Cooper, Editor of the Canadian Magazine, said:

"I think the time has come when we should take some action in regard to the necessity for lines. Mr. Smith, the secretary of the Post Office Department, has been investigating the matter. I think Sir William Mullock himself is favorable to the nationalization of the telegraph and telephone systems. It is a question of great importance to this country, that as we get larger, we should not be at the mercy of the large telegraph and telephone companies. Manitoba is moving along these lines, and the Press Association could bring a good deal of credit to itself by leading in this matter. Our telegraph rates are much higher than those in Australia and Great Britain. Telephones are coming more into general use, and if we allow the Bell Telephone Company to extend its present monopoly, the country will ultimately be in a position that will not be at all favorable from an economic standpoint."

The matter was referred to a Committee, who drafted the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:

"This Association, in re-affirming its previous declaration in favour of the nationalization of the telegraph and telephone systems of Canada, believes that the practical efficiency of the Post Office administration under Sir William Mullock is a good augury of business-like control of telegraphs and telephones by the State, and would strongly approve a special inquiry being made by the Dominion Government into the telegraph service in Great Britain and Australia, with a view to its ultimate adoption in Canada.

(This follows the U.C.M. at the last annual meeting.—Ed).

The Danger of Monopolies.

"We are paying three times more than in Toronto, where electricity produced by steam costs as much as at Montreal, where there are close by such water powers as Chambly, Lachine, and Shawinigan.

"The Central Electric Co. organised by the Carsley Co. to escape the exactions of the Trust, furnishes Light and Power at less than one half price.

"The M. L. H. & P. Co. offered to supply power to the city for pumping at \$20.00 per h.p., while the consumers are paying from \$90.00 to \$125.00 per h.p."—Le Canada.

British Municipal Street Railways

The returns of the British Board of Trade just published show that out of 1,840 miles of tramways and light railways in the United Kingdom, no less than 1,147 miles are owned by municipalities. This 1,147 miles has cost the municipalities \$136,541, but last year \$1,007,789 of profits were turned over to reduce the taxes, while the average fare has been reduced from 3.68 cents in 1879 to 2.2 cents, and the number of passengers has been doubled.

Civic Notes.

BRANDON, Man., has now a population of 8,529, an increase of 1,523 since last year. The assessment is \$4,134,820, against \$2,657,123 last year.

The railway bridge at FREDERICTON, N. B., has been taken over from the Bridge Co., by the Government. The Co. is asking for \$50,000, which they have spent on it.

Navigation opened at MONTREAL on the 20th April for the river steamers.

LONDON, Ont., will have an Old Boys' Reunion in August.

MONTREAL, as well as Toronto, will have a pneumatic tube system for the Post Office use.

QUEBEC is afraid of another fall of rock from the Citadel, where a fatal slide took place in 1889.

ST. JOHN. N. B., has secured the assistance of the Montreal Shipping Federation towards improving the Port.

OXFORD, N. S., was thrown into darkness by the burning of the American Furniture Co. factory, in which the town plant was.

GRIMSBY, Ont., has had legalized a by-law passed twelve months ago for issuing \$34,000 of debentures for waterworks.

ORILLIA, Ont., has voted a bonus of \$30,000 to the James Bay Ry., with rights of way, to secure the main line running through; they will not be exempt from taxation.

WINDSOR, Ont., will vote on a by-law to borrow \$30,000 for re-building the electric light plant.

BRANDON, Man., will have a Y. M. C. A., that will cost \$72,000.

The TORONTO firemen held a caucus and have asked for higher wages.

ST. CATHARINES, Ont., is to be the site of a new power plant, utilizing the Welland River to develop 200,000 h. p.

WINNIPEG is to have a 3,000 barrel flour mill, to be built by the Northern Elevator Co.

ORILLIA, Ont., has asked for power to borrow up to \$700,000 to continue its municipal works. Last year the profit from light and power was \$7,000.

TORONTO had only six lots offered for sale for the non-payment of taxes.

Escott and Yonge Townships, Leeds Co., are to be separated for municipal purposes.

NAPANEE, Ont., wants to spend \$40,000 for an electric light plant, as a result of several years' trouble in decrepit light and gas companies. The town has been declared exempt from the Conmee Act.

"The solid basis of TORONTO'S commerce is proved by the fact that already it has recovered from the twelve million dollar fire of a year ago."

The Trader's Bank will erect a fifteen story building in TORONTO.

BROCKVILLE, Ont., has sold \$39,202 of debentures through Mess. H. O'Hara & Co. Toronto; \$30,000 is for a loan to the Canada Carriage Co.

FORT ERIE and BRIDGEBURY, Ont., will unite to form one municipality.

TORONTO will have an iron works on Ashbridge's Bay.

LITTLE CURRENT, Ont. has issued a circular