

BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY—IN COMMITTEE—Con.

Fitzpatrick, Hon. Charles (Minister of Justice) —Con.

committee and explains the working of it—3965. I have endeavoured in my amendment to draw a distinction between conditions existing and conditions that may arise in the future. The amendment, to a large extent, has been approved both by the company and by the municipalities—3966. The amendment is intended to be applicable to conditions existing at the present time as well as to conditions to be created hereafter—3967. The Privy Council decided that my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) builded better than he knew—3968.

Lancaster, E. A. (Lincoln and Niagara)—3964.
The Minister of Justice said so—3964.

Lennox, Haughton (South Simcoe)—3966.

I think it will be necessary to allow municipalities to control their own systems and the territory they occupy, except perhaps in the matter of trunk lines—3966. I find that as soon as the cities, towns and villages get what they want they do not feel any great degree of anxiety as to the people who live outside—3967.

Maclean, W. F. (South York)—3964.

On the preamble—Will the Prime Minister now say exactly what is to be the programme of the government in regard to this?—3964. The municipalities are not satisfied with the proposed legislation. I wish also to protest against the statement of policy made by the Minister of Justice that general legislation in regard to telephones should only have a certain effect in the future—3967. Suggests that government should get on with their Telephone Bill, and that the municipalities be given an opportunity to appear before the Committee, if necessary—3968.

Sproule, T. S. (East Grey)—3967.

The Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) makes a distinction between rights acquired under the existing law, and rights the company may acquire in the future; what I contend is that although they have exercised those rights, it was never intended by the country that they had acquired them—3967. Therefore, it seems to me that we ought to be extremely careful so as to guard the provincial rights which the people ought to have under the provincial law—3968.

House again in committee on Bill (81) respecting the Bell Telephone Company—Mr. Bureau—4195. Progress reported—4197.

Bureau, Jacques (Three Rivers)—4196.

This Bill was to remain in the committee stage until the amendments to be proposed to the Railway Act by the Minister of Railways were brought down. They have been brought down and referred to a Special Committee—4196. This Bill is

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a private measure affecting a private corporation, and I do not believe the member for South York (Mr. Maclean) wants to hold up the company—4197.

Emmerson, Hon. H. R. (Minister of Railways) —4196.

I do not understand the arrangement before the Railway Committee to be that the Bell Telephone Company Bill was to stand until these amendments to the Railway Act were actually concurred in by the House—4196.

Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid (Prime Minister) —4197.

The Minister of Justice is looking after this matter; I have had no conference with him, and in his absence I would not care to proceed. I do not think my hon. friend (Mr. Maclean) should ask us what we will do until I have had an opportunity to discuss this matter with the Minister of Justice—4197.

Maclean, W. F. (South York)—4195.

On the preamble—The understanding yesterday was that this Bill was to remain where it was until the government measure dealing with telephones had gone through the House—4195. Clearly that was the understanding, and will leave it to the government to say if it was not—4196. After the Prime Minister has consulted the Minister of Justice, the House and the country ought to be informed what the understanding is, and what the intention of the government is in regard to the passing of this Bill—4197.

Taylor, George (Leeds)—4196.

I was discussing this Bill to-day with the leader of the opposition (Mr. Borden) and I understood from him that this Bill would not come up this evening—4196.

House again in committee on Bill (81) respecting the Bell Telephone Company of Canada—Mr. Bureau—4388.

Fielding, Hon. W. S. (Minister of Finance) —4388.

I understood from the Prime Minister that it was his desire that this Bill should stand over a day and not go on to-night—4388.

Maclean, W. F. (South York)—4388.

Will the government tell us what they believe to be the understanding with regard to the Bell Telephone Bill?—4388.

House in committee on Bill (81) respecting the Bell Telephone Company of Canada—Mr. Bureau—5995. Bill reported—6022.

Borden, R. L. (Carleton, Ont.)—5998.

There is no objection, I suppose, on the part of any person to a reasonable in-