

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

No. 258.

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, COUNTY OF HALTON,
MILTON, ONT., August 18, 1905.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK,

Chairman, Select Committee on Telephones.

SIR,—The county council of Halton has instructed me to say, in answer to your letter of June 2 last, that, while no special complaint is offered as to the efficiency of the system in this county, the use of the telephone would be much more general, and the service to the public made thereby more efficient if a substantial reduction were made in the charges that now prevail. The council believes that a general adoption of the telephone throughout the rural districts would be of great benefit to all concerned.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. PANTON,
County Clerk.

No. 259.

YORK COUNTY, N.B.

To the Honourable Chairman of Select Committee on Telephone Inquiry, Sir William Mulock.

SIR,—In response to your letter addressed to the municipality of York, under date of June 3, last, through its secretary, F. St. John Bliss, the Committee appointed by the warden of York county at the semi-annual session of the county council, held on Tuesday, July 4, 1905, beg leave to report as follows:—

We have within the confines of our county two systems of telephone connection, the New Brunswick Telephone Company of some years' standing and operation, doing a long distance business entirely through pay stations at toll rates located at a few scattered points, the said company operating a fairly good service of its kind, *i.e.*, one controlled by a private corporation, which has enjoyed up to last year a monopoly of the telephone business of this county at rates that in many cases must show a large margin of profit for the company over and above a fair return on their money invested. The pay stations of the New Brunswick Company in the county outside of the city of Fredericton exchange, at present number about nineteen (19), which covers but a small portion of the rural field. The New Brunswick Company do not lease 'phones anywhere, operating solely on the pay station toll rate system, outside of cities and towns.

In contrast with the New Brunswick Company, a new company known as the Union Telephone Company, entered the western end of our county in the month of May, 1904. This company is operated solely on a mutual co-operation basis. They are seeking to ruralize the telephone system of York county, they have in a large measure done in the counties of Carleton and Victoria to the north. They built and operated last year a circuit, covering some fifty miles in York county, on which they have leased twenty-six 'phones, many of them in farmers' houses, and they are now constructing a main line of thirty-seven miles following the St. John river to Fredericton, the capital of the province, and will commence work on two branch lines of fourteen and sixteen miles respectively to connect with main line in a few days. All of these three districts are now without telephone connection, and a number of telephones have been subscribed for on each circuit—more of course will doubtless be taken when construction is completed.

They are building these new extensions in York county in a substantial manner, and putting on the latest improvements and appliances known to the business. Their main line is to be number 12 copper wire, continuous circuit of two wires for long-distance business, and for local circuits two number 9 copper wires will be used, making metallic circuits throughout. The instruments used are to be the newest and best made. All the people are asked to take stock, for purposes of extension of the system through their individual territory, thus participating in profits as well as privileges,