

Montreal Telegraph Company.

The annual meeting was held Jan. 10, and H. A. Allan, President; A. T. Paterson, Vice-President; W. McMaster and W. R. Miller, directors, were re-elected for the current year. The company's property is maintained and operated by the Great North-Western Telegraph Co. of Canada, and the dividend is guaranteed by the Western Union Telegraph Co., of New York, under an agreement, for 97 years from 1881. The guaranteed dividend has been distributed quarterly, and a payment of 10c. a share to shareholders of record Sept. 30, 1907, was also made. The principal figures in the balance sheet for the year ended Dec. 31 are as follows:

ASSETS.	
Telegraph lines in Canada and U.S.	\$1,625,890.00
Telegraph cables in Canada and U.S.	33,487.39
Telegraph offices and equipment in Canada and U.S.	212,500.00
Real estate in Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec and Toronto.	279,946.46
	<u>\$2,151,823.85</u>
Cash, accounts receivable, bonds and other securities, and real estate (not included in agreement with G.N.W.)	141,191.46
	<u>\$2,293,015.31</u>
LIABILITIES.	
Shareholders' capital.	\$2,000,000.00
Excess in value of property operated by the G.N.W.T. Co. over shareholders' capital.	151,823.85
Dividend payable Jan. 15.	\$40,000.00
Unclaimed dividends, etc.	1,932.49
Contingent fund.	99,258.97
	<u>141,191.46</u>
	<u>\$2,293,015.31</u>

General Telephone Matters.

The Bell Telephone Co. paid its quarterly dividend of 2% Jan. 15.

New Hamburg, Ont., has installed a telephone system with connections with the Bell Telephone Co.

The Bell Telephone Co. has completed the stringing of a second long distance line between Caledonia and Hamilton, Ont.

The Blenheim and South Kent Telephone Co. has now completed the erection of about 30 miles of line, and contemplates further construction in the near future.

G. H. Halse, heretofore Secretary of the British Columbia Telephone Co., Vancouver, B.C., has been appointed General Superintendent, succeeding H. W. Kent, resigned.

The Revelstoke, B.C., municipal council is contemplating the taking over of the local telephone service, which is at present operated by the British Columbia Telephone Co., Ltd.

The telephone line from Thetford Mines to Broughton Station, East Broughton, Robertson and Tring Jct., Que., has been connected up to the Bell Telephone Co.'s system.

The Yarmouth Amalgamated Telephone Co. has been granted supplemental letters patent under the Nova Scotia Companies Act, increasing its capital from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

A telephone company is being organized in Debec, N.B., with a capital of \$5,000, for the purpose of installing and operating a telephone system in York and Carleton counties, N.B.

It was recently announced that the fund being raised for the purpose of erecting a memorial in Brantford, Ont., to A. G. Bell, the inventor of the telephone, has reached \$38,295.

The Dunnville (Ont.) Consolidated Telephone Co. is issuing first mortgage gold bonds to the extent of \$24,000, bearing interest at 6%, for the purpose of extensions in the territory already operated.

The Muskoka Independent Telephone Co. has been granted a franchise by Chaffey, Ont., and has received applications from Rosseau, Yearley and Sprucedale for extensions of the company's lines there.

There are reported to be some 50 free telephones in Winnipeg on the Bell Telephone Co.'s lines. The Government, on taking over the company's system in the Province, will require that all instruments be paid for.

The Nova Scotia Telephone Co., which recently took over the Yarmouth Telephone Co.'s plant, is making extensive improvements in the system in Yarmouth. The wires on most of the main streets have been placed underground and in other places new poles have been erected.

The Farmers' Telephone Co., Ltd., has been incorporated under the New Brunswick Companies Act, with a capital of \$5,000 and office at Windsor, N.B., to instal and operate a telephone system in Carleton county, N.B. The provisional directors are: H. A. Smith, E. W. Spinner, G. O. Britton, E. A. Britton, and F. W. Smith, Windsor, N.B.

The Burnt River Telephone Co., Ltd., has been incorporated under the Ontario Companies Act, with a capital of \$5,000, and office at Burnt River, Ont., to carry on the business of a telephone company in Victoria county. The provisional directors are: W. Fell, J. Hodgson, A. B. Townsend, R. Maconachie, W. Britnell, Somerville; and S. Hughes, Lindsay, Ont.

The Caradoc-Ekfrid Telephone Co., Ltd., has been incorporated under the Ontario Companies Act, with a capital of \$10,000, and offices at Melbourne, Ont., to carry on the business of a telephone company in the townships of Caradoc and Ekfrid, Ont. The provisional directors are: A. B. McDonald, N. A. Galbraith, J. A. McEwen, Ekfrid, and F. L. Williams, T. W. Williams, Caradoc.

The Lansdowne Rural Telephone Co., Ltd., has been incorporated under the Ontario Companies Act, with a capital of \$20,000, and office at Lansdowne, Ont., to carry on a general telephone business in Leeds county, Ont. The provisional directors are: W. J. Webster, R. J. Mitchell, O. W. Landon, W. W. Shipman, H. Horton, C. Fredenburg, G. F. Deane, G. W. Steacy, and W. McConnell, Lansdowne.

The Vancouver, B.C., Board of Trade recently passed a resolution endorsing an application to the Dominion Government favoring the establishment of a telephone line between Vancouver and Point Atkinson. It has also been in communication with W. H. Kent, manager B.C. Telephone Co., with a view of the company constructing such a line. The proposal, the Board was informed, was under the consideration of the directors.

The North Western Telephone Co. is asking the Saskatoon, Sask., City Council to guarantee its 5% bonds to an amount equal to its fully paid-up stock, and also for an extension of its franchise for ten years, with a view to the reconstruction and extension of the system. If these proposals are carried out it is intended to have two city representatives on the directorate, and the city will have the right to purchase the system any time after five years.

The Central Ontario Ry. has put in force a new passenger rate showing a maximum fare of 3 cents a mile between all stations. The tariff has been approved by the Board of Railway Commissioners.

Randolph Macdonald & Co., Ltd., having completed their several contracts in the Province of Quebec, have removed their head office from Three Rivers, Que., to the Crown Life Building, Toronto.

Bell Telephone Lines in Manitoba.

The correspondence between the Manitoba Government and the Bell Telephone Co. respecting the sale of the company's lines in the Province was laid on the table of the Legislature Jan. 6. The correspondence was opened by a letter from the Premier to the President of the Bell Telephone Co., Mar. 11, 1907, setting out the policy of the Government in regard to the construction of a provincial telephone system and inviting the company to consider the propriety of selling out its line to the Government. After correspondence and an interview the President, C. F. Sise, on behalf of the company, offered to sell to the Province its entire telephone business in Manitoba as a going concern from Jan. 15 for the consideration of \$3,400,000 in approved 40 year bonds of the Province bearing interest at 4%. Among the conditions set out by the company to be included in the contract of sale are: the carrying out of existing contracts, the retention of present employees for at least a year; the right to construct a line through the Province to connect its Ontario and Saskatchewan lines; to provide for the interchange of business; the right to re-enter the Province for business in the event of the Government selling the lines now purchased to another company, or ceasing to operate them; and the giving of a preference, when terms and conditions are otherwise equal, in the purchase of supplies to the Northern Electric and Manufacturing Co., and the Wire and Cable Co., Montreal. O. F. French, Chief Engineer of the Provincial Department of Railways, Telephones and Telegraphs, presented a report on the system Dec. 28, and on Dec. 30, an order-in-council was passed recommending the acceptance of the company's offer, \$3,300,000 being placed as the price of the lines, etc., and \$100,000 as the value of supplies purchased for and charged to the Manitoba lines, and in store at various points.

The report of the Chief Engineer set forth that on Dec. 10, 1907, there were 14,195 instruments in Manitoba, 8,890 being connected with the Winnipeg exchange; 780 with the Brandon exchange and the remainder being distributed among 65 smaller plants, practically covering the whole telephone area of the Province. During the past season an addition of 2,000 cable pairs was made in Winnipeg, and with a comparatively small additional capital expenditure these could be made available for new subscribers, thus increasing the total capacity to 13,395. This cable capacity will take care of 50% more individual line telephones than are at present in use in the city, or on a party line basis it would be possible to about double the present subscription list. This will hold true in nearly every exchange in the system. Winnipeg and Brandon have subway systems which, with comparatively small additions, will be ample for several years. There are 1,397 miles of farm pole lines with a circuit wire mileage of 2,019 miles. Winnipeg exchange has 165 miles of pole lines covering Winnipeg and reaching out to St. James, Elm Park, St. Boniface, Elmwood and other points. The switchboards at Winnipeg and Brandon are of the common battery multiple type; the other exchanges are equipped with magnetic apparatus. The construction has been well done, and is up to modern practice generally; an exception to this is the use of the old type of Blake transmitter to some extent in a few of the smaller exchanges; these could be replaced by solid back transmitters, however, at a nominal cost. The physical plant is in a good state of repair, and is being kept so. The estimated