

APPENDIX No. 1

GUELPH BOARD OF TRADE.

Moved by J. W. Lyon,
Seconded by R. Simpson.

THAT WHEREAS the contract existing between the city and the Bell Telephone Company expires on July 1, 1905, and it is not expedient that the City of Guelph should renew the existing contract or make any other contract with the Bell Company for the following reasons:—

First.—The House of Commons, by a Committee, are enquiring into all facts relative to telephone ownership, operation and services; it is therefore inexpedient that the City of Guelph bind itself with any new bargain with the Bell Company pending the report of this Committee, and the action of the Government to follow. A statement has been made before this Committee that Canada and the United States are paying twice as much for telephone service as any other country in the world.

Second.—The towns of Port Arthur and Fort William have for two years owned and operated a municipal telephone system successfully, the rate being \$12 for house telephones and \$24 for business telephones per annum. We are informed that for the year 1904 the Port Arthur system earned a profit over and above working expenses, interest and sinking fund of some \$400. We understand that Peterborough has refused to renew their contract with the Bell Company, and have granted a franchise to a rival company on much more advantageous terms; that Brantford and Ottawa are agitating the question, refusing to re-contract with the Bell Company, and we believe it is wise for us to be in a position to take advantage of their experiences and results, it being evident that a contract with the Bell Company would be a serious handicap to our free action in the matter.

Third.—The whole system of ownership and operation of telephones is now in an unsettled or transition state, with a distinct leaning towards Government ownership and operation, at least of the long-distance lines, coupled with government or municipal ownership or operation of city service.

THEREFORE, for the above and other reasons, we put ourselves on record as strongly opposed to any new contract being entered into between the City of Guelph and the Bell Telephone Company under present conditions. This Board is also on record in favour of government ownership and operation of the long-distance telephone lines, coupled either with government or municipal ownership and control of city services. Further, that a copy of the resolution be sent to Sir William Mulock, Postmaster General of Canada, and chairman of the House of Commons Committee investigating the telephone service.

Certified a true copy.

JAMES WATT,
Secretary Guelph Board of Trade.

Guelph, April 26, 1905.

No. 38.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON TELEPHONE SYSTEMS.

Synopsis of letters received by the Chairman of the Committee from the following:—

The Globe Automatic Telephone Co., Chicago.—Explains automatic system suitable for party-line working in rural districts, at a cost of \$15 for telephone instrument and \$11 per line for switches. Has sold instruments to about 200 exchanges in United States, and will send partial list of these.

The Automatic Electric Co., Chicago.—Forwards descriptive matter and other booklets relating to the 'Strowger' automatic system. Gives list of 19 towns where it is