

A TELEPHONE ROMANCE

Municipal 'Phones a Success — Has Brought the National to Its Knees and Has 11,000 Subscribers — All Lines Are Under Ground and Parliament Has Too Much Sense to Assume Control of City's Streets.

Ottawa, April 19.—The story of municipal ownership unfolded briefly and graphically to the special Telephone Committee, by Mr. Willocks, chairman of the Glasgow City Council, who is likely to be the first in Canada who is visiting Ottawa, was invited to let the committee of the working of a municipal telephone system in that particular town. He did so and stated that the system was successful. Mr. Willocks was most emphatic in his belief of the good result of public ownership of the telephone. He pointed out the subject at his finger ends and so interested were the members that the speaker showed a tendency to wander off the subject of municipal ownership outside of the subject of investigation—the telephone. The Glasgow man outlined the system of the Glasgow City Council, operated had been granted in 1900, over an area of 143 square miles. The license expires in 1918. The great cost of the municipal system was the National Telephone Co. the telephone octopus of Great Britain. The Municipal Co. had fixed a rate of 5 pence (£25) a year for an unlimited service. The rates of the National were £10 (\$50).

Brought to Time.
The competition of the municipal system had brought the monopoly to time in quick order. The people realized that fair and strenuous competition was the only manner in which an up-to-date and reasonable service could be obtained. Glasgow had in her streets and public places 300 public telephones, the municipal and the national side by side, where, by putting a penny in the slot, connection could be obtained in any part of city and suburbs.

Before the municipal came into the field there were practically no public telephones. The onslaught of the municipal 'phones had brought the National down to its knees there was no agreement between the two companies. The City of Glasgow did not allow poles to be erected in the streets. All lines were underground. No company could dig up the streets, to get to the conduits without consent of the city. Mr. Maclean asked what would happen if Parliament ordered the city to have poles, etc., to be erected in the streets.

Know Better There.
 "Parliament has too much sense for that," was the quick rejoinder. The National had the larger number of subscribers, having been in the market much longer. The municipal company had 11,000 subscribers. The rest of the country was that the National would now put telephone in residence for a nominal sum of 18 pence and charge one penny a call. It did not begin for the strenuous municipal competition: the National was in Glasgow by the throat, as it were, and other cities, seeing the success of the Glasgow system, were now clamoring for reduced rates in the National.

The Only Way: Mr. Willocks was enthusiastic over the general benefit that had accrued to the community through the municipal ownership of the telephone system. In his opinion it was the only system that could give modern service at reasonable rates. He received the thanks of the committee for his very instructive remarks.

Mr. Ochs, of Hespeler, testified briefly regarding a system absorbed by the city in that vicinity. He was of the opinion that there was a demand for telephones among rural residents, and that the city should purchase the company to which he belonged, and then to sell out to the Bell because it could not get connection with the city. He offered \$15 to \$20 a year for the use of the system, and for the all-outright independent company he offered \$100,000.

The County of Waterloo,

Going to Labrador.
 milton, April 19.—Rev. Dr. Marsh,
 A. S., and G. Parry Jenkins,
 A. S., members of the Hami-
 Astronomical Society, have been
 nted by the Dominion Govern-
 as members of the expedition that
 set out to view the solar eclipses
 Labrador next August. The ex-
 on will be divided into two sec-
 The first will sail from North
 y by S. S. La Canadienne about
 5, and will proceed to the vi-
 of Rigoulet, Labrador.

Prospector Disappears.
St. Ste. Marie, April 19.—A mining prospector, Richard Cochrane, has been missing since March 20, and is supposed to have been lost. When leaving he did not tell where he was going or how long. The last seen of him was two days later, out on the Northern Central Railway, 10 miles. No word for his leaving so can be given. He was 50 years of age, and leaves a wife and six children.

Dr. W. H. Johnston Dies.
us, April 19.—Dr. W. H. John-
sted at his old home in Eramosa
lay. He was surgeon-major of
the 1st Regiment, president of the
Cultural Society, secretary of the
library board, an active mem-
ber of the Centre Wellington Agricul-
tural Society, and county commis-

Wine Honor at Harvard.
 va, April 19.—H. C. Vaughan, of
 sional staff of the House of
 has received word that his
 ment Vaughan, M. A., has been
 the travelling scholarship at
 University, where he is a post-
 student.

The Fisheries Service.—**Wakeham,** April 19.—Capt. Wakeham, Dominion fisheries protection left yesterday for Quebec, to command of his steamer, La Canoe, which will again this season be employed in patrolling the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

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