

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

In a conversation between the Reeve and Mr. Burrows, Mr. Burrows in speaking of an arrangement whereby his company might take over the Farmers' line, said he thought the company would be willing to lease the line for a term of years by each subscriber paying \$11 per annum in addition to paying their regular schedule of rates. So far the committee are not in favour of such an arrangement.

The Bell Company have a 'phone in the post office, as formerly, and one in the Ottawa House, for which the proprietor pays \$25 per annum in addition to their rates as charged the public.

As far as I understand the situation, if we wish to do business over the Bell Telephone Company line we must pay well for it; if they, on the other hand, wish to do business over the Farmers' line, as I am given to understand they would like to do, then we must still pay them well for the privilege, there is no give and take. I don't think I can say anything more. Mr. Young's testimony covers the ground; what he has stated in regard to his division applies also to this division. Trusting this will be satisfactory.

I am yours respectfully,

W. E. WHYBOURNE,
Clerk.

No. 231.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PICKERING.

WHITEVALE, ONT., July 10, 1905.

Sir W. MULOCK.

Postmaster General and Chairman Select Committee on Telephone Systems,
Ottawa, Ont.

DEAR SIR,—We are directed by the municipal council of the township of Pickering, in reply to your favour of the 2nd ult., to say that in this township the telephone service is very good, the Bell Telephone Company and several independent organizations being in operation. To the council it seems a great waste of money to have the Bell Telephone Company duplicating independent lines and the independents duplicating the Bell lines. The council wish respectfully to submit that telephones are now as necessary as post offices, and that the telephone system should be a monopoly in the hands of the Dominion government. The council is of opinion that a better service would then be had, the public better served and at much less cost than now, and that the telephone system could be made a success if placed under the control of the post office department.

Previous to the advent of independent lines the telephone service in this township was very limited and charges were high, but now the rates are more reasonable, the Bell Company charging a rental of about \$15 per annum for a 'phone, and a fee of 15 cents for a 3-minute talk in the local zone. The local companies charge an annual rental of from \$12 to \$15 per 'phone and from 10 to 15 cents for 5-minutes' talk.

The usefulness of the local telephone systems would be much increased if they had a long-distance connection and the privilege of installing telephone instruments in the railway stations.

JAMES McBRADY,
Reeve, Township of Pickering.

DONALD R. BEATON,
Clerk, Township of Pickering.