

APPENDIX No. 1

system), the want of communication with markets, station houses, stores, doctors, &c., is most irksome, vexatious and wasteful of time—a social condition in fact that is altogether out of date in a prosperous, populous and progressive community, as ours is. Regarding the question of the controlling and administering power in any system that may be inaugurated, we prefer the Dominion Government.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. T. MORTON.

No. 107.

(Translation.)

BATISCAN, P.Q., June 9, 1905.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK,
Postmaster General, Ottawa.

HONOURABLE AND DEAR SIR,—We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, and in reply: the Bell is the only telephone line established in our locality at the present time, with few subscribers, who are charged about \$20 per 'phone per year, and moreover they have to pay extra every time they use the 'phone. This kind of service and charges thereof is considered exorbitant to a superlative degree, and not available to our rural population. However, we hope to be more reasonably dealt by, soon, both with respect to rates and facilities. An independent local company is just now being organized, with the object of establishing a service throughout all the parishes of our county, at reasonable fixed charges, and within the reach of all classes.

We are of opinion that the government should control and operate, as owner thereof, all the telephone systems, but failing this, legislation should be enacted to protect the independent telephone companies, chiefly those which are not under contract with the Bell Company, because these are the companies which render real service to the rural population of our district.

We are of opinion also that a law should be passed permitting independent telephone companies to install 'phones in the railway stations, so as to facilitate communication with the interior part of the county. We have seven or eight parishes whose people are often obliged to drive to the railway stations to transact their business. Our County Telephone line will link together, from a telephony service point of view, all the parishes of the county as far as here, but it is not free to install its 'phone in the Canadian Pacific Railway station of Batiscan, judging by a similar occurrence which happened a few stations from here.

Again, we strongly assert, and repeatedly so, that although we have had a Bell Telephone service for many years, it does not give satisfaction owing to its exorbitant rates and the lack of particular communication with the interior part of the county, which the company repeatedly refuses to grant us.

The Bell Telephone, which has been established here for many years, has only eight or nine subscribers, when it ought to have 150, according to our opinion.

These, dear Minister, are our opinions on this question, all of which we respectfully offer to your consideration.

Yours truly,

HECTOR HARDY,

Secretary-Treasurer.