

phone Company or other company, that a province, municipality, or corporation would have under section 23.

Mr. PRINGLE. Is it desirable that this power should be given to an aggregation of a half dozen individuals who are not incorporated? It is a very simple matter to get incorporation.

Mr. BERGERON. Would that mean that if half a dozen farmers had a little telephone between themselves they could tap the long distance system?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. No; they could apply to the board.

Mr. HYMAN. It would be necessary according to this amendment that there should be two telephone systems. Does the hon. gentleman mean where they are connected with long distance telephones? Because if he does that is already provided for.

Mr. ALCORN. I mean precisely what we have been talking of all evening, the case of a rural telephone company seeking connection with the Bell or any other telephone company.

Mr. HYMAN. Whether it has a long distance or not?

Mr. ALCORN. Whether or not; I am not distinguishing between long distance and local.

Mr. HYMAN. This is practically Mr. W. F. Maclean's amendment in a modified form.

Mr. MILLER. I suggest that you should take my amendment and put in 'person or persons.'

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The point I intended will be covered by inserting the words 'incorporated company' in the first section.

Mr. MILLER. Person or persons would do it better.

Mr. SPROULE. I do not think that would do it. One is to provide an incorporated company may unite; another is to provide that rural companies may interchange. That is what we have been working on all night.

Mr. FIELDING. If they can obtain all these privileges by obtaining an Act or incorporation would they not do it? Why legislate for the individual in that way? A person can get a charter and come within the privilege of this Act.

Mr. SPROULE. You do not bring them within this Act then, because the Act does not provide for local companies getting interchange with one another. My hon. friend beside me (Mr. Bergeron) has asked: Are

you going to allow any little company attached to trees and fences, &c., to have the benefit of long distance connection? We have provided that they shall be up to a certain standard.

Mr. FIELDING. Whether wisely or not we have settled that and confined them to long distance connections.

Mr. BERGERON. I do not see how it would be physically possible; suppose five or six persons have telephone connections among themselves and a long distance wire passes, would the long distance company be forced to establish an office there to connect with that small system?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. No.

Mr. BERGERON. Then how can they connect? Would they carry a line to the next station?

Mr. ALCORN. The hon. gentleman who has just sat down (Mr. Bergeron) has spoken of these companies generally as if they had generally only five or six connections. In my county we have an unincorporated company which had last year 180 miles of wire in operation, and I am informed has now more than double that and has almost every farmer in two large townships as subscribers. If they were free of the Bell Company, they would extend over the rest of the county. They were compelled in order to secure connection with the Bell to agree to confine their operations for five years to those two townships. I am satisfied if it were not for that they would cover the whole country in a very short time and have two-thirds of our farmers as subscribers. They were also compelled to accord to the Bell for connection a most exorbitant proportion of the tolls, about three-fourths. That is an instance where the Bell has agreed to a connection. I think it would be right, in cases of that kind, to have unincorporated companies go before the board in the same manner as incorporated companies and procure connection upon reasonable terms. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) referred to the ease with which such companies can procure incorporation. By section 23, the term 'company' is limited to companies incorporated by this parliament and it is no small undertaking for a band of farmers to come here for incorporation.

Mr. HYMAN. This does not use the word 'company' but 'corporation'.

Mr. ALCORN. For the very purpose of avoiding what I am referring to, incorporation by this parliament.

Mr. MILLER. Why insist on incorporation? I would point out that in any company there is necessarily considerable ex-