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The Daily Herald.

THE WEATHER.
Fair today, not much change in temperature. Wednesday fresh to strong southerly winds showery by evening.

VOL XII

FREDERICTON, N. B., TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1907

NO. 60

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TOOTH PASTE

GEO. Y. DIBBLEE,

PEOPLE'S DRUGGIST - opp. City Hall.

Fredericton's Leading Drug Store.

Chestnut
says

"Our BAKING POWDER is all goodness. Made from pure Cream of Tartar, it contains not a grain, not an atom of any harmful ingredient. It is the cheapest of all, for the same quantity will go farther than advertised brands. 40c. per full pound.

"THE QUALITY STORE,"

572, Queen Street.

Buy a New Clock

Don't borrow time from your neighbors. The old clock that has stopped has probably served its time.

We have a full line of Kitchen, Dining Room and Parlor Clocks, also Nickel Alarm Clocks, from \$1.25 up.

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Opp. Normal School

Fredericton, N.

THE TELEPHONE BILL.

Important Measure Discussed Before Municipalities Committee--Premier's Statement

The corporations committee of the legislature met this morning in the assembly chamber with Mr. O. L. King in the chair and took up the N. B. Telephone bill. Among those in attendance besides the members of the committee were Mayor Sears and Recorder Skinner of St. John, Mr. W. B. Chandler, K. C., J. S. Magee, Moncton, ex-Mayor McNally, Fredericton, Warden Flett, Northumberland Warden McFarlane, York, J. H. Barry, K. C., Fredericton and others.

Mr. Skinner, K. C. was heard in opposition to the telephone bill on behalf of the union of New Brunswick municipalities. He complained of the action of employees of the company in mutilating trees and pointed out that the men employed as line-men usually had very little regard for the interests of a community. He thought that if the charter now being asked for was granted, the company would have one of the most valuable franchises ever granted in this province. So far as the larger towns and cities are concerned, the company should not be allowed to erect poles or string wires without permission of such cities or towns. In regard to the lines, if conductors are not used, they should be compelled to erect wires at least thirty feet above the ground. A commission or the governor-in-council should have power to fix the tolls, and the company should be compelled to extend their lines to localities not having telephone connection. Mr. Skinner pointed out there was almost a revolutionary feeling among the people against granting the powers asked for by the telephone company. The act proposes to give the company great powers, but fails to give any protection to the people. The legislature should hesitate to grant any charter likely to interfere with the rights of the people. Watered stock used to be considered as a joke, now it has become a serious matter. Before long it would be considered a calamity.

Mr. Skinner submitted and discussed the following suggestions made by the union of municipalities in regard to the bill.

- 1.—Government to take over lines.
- 2.—\$2,000,000 capital too large.
- 3.—When N. B. Company takes over any other company any special privileges given in the locality should not pass to N. B. company.
- 4.—Injury to trees under penalty of not less than \$20,000 not more than \$50,000.
- 5.—That before company places conductors, poles or wires they should obtain consent of municipality and poles and conductors to be erected as municipality may reasonably require.
- 6.—Cities, towns or municipalities to have the right to assess company for damage to any streets, roads, etc.
- 7.—Company after getting notice to put wires under ground from any city or town, notice to have them put under ground in one year.
- 8.—Municipalities to have power to fix height of poles and wires.
- 9.—Governor-in-council, or a commission to have power to fix tolls.
- 10.—Governor-in-council or commission to have power to compel the company to give accommodation where company refuses, if application reasonable as to proximity, etc.
- 11.—Company to submit an annual report of their business to government or commission so as to enable government to protect rights of people, as to tolls, extension of accommodation, etc.

WOODSTOCK MAYOR.

Mayor Munro, of Woodstock, said that he wanted the rights of the town of Woodstock protected. A few years ago the New Brunswick company had a monopoly of the telephone business in Woodstock. They gave no night or Sunday service, and it was necessary for people who wished to talk to St. John or other points on long distance lines to go to the central office. The mayor told of the formation of the Union Telephone Company, and of its absorption by the Central Company. This company gave the town an automatic service which was very satisfactory. As a concession to the Union Company the town gave them the right to use the electric light poles. Now this right was held by the N. B. Company, which meant that the town could not use its own poles for telephone purposes. The N. B. Company did not enjoy a good record in Woodstock, and it was on account of the feeling against them that the Union Company was formed. When the automatic telephone was introduced by the Union Company, the N. B. company at once cut their rates in two. Had the N. B. company done what was right by the people of Carleton Place, the Union company would never have been called into existence. The new company soon extended to the counties of York and Victoria and was finally absorbed by the N. B. company.

City Clerk Magee of Moncton submitted a number of resolutions relating to the telephone bill passed by county and town councils and boards of trade throughout the province. They all expressed disapproval of granting a monopoly to the N. B. Telephone Company, and some went so far as to advocate municipal telephones. He called attention to the charters granted to telephone companies by the Dominion parliament last session, and pointed out that the municipalities were only asking for rights similar to those guaranteed the people under those charters.

Mayor Sears of St. John objected to the proposal in the telephone bill to place control of affairs in the hands of a committee. It rather savored like a close corporation, and was certainly to be regarded with suspicion. He thought the government should have power to examine the business of the company and if it was found that large profits were being derived, a reduction of tolls should be ordered.

Mr. Skinner hoped that before the bill was finally sent to the house, that the committee should be given an opportunity to see the government bill.

THE PREMIER'S VIEWS.

Premier Pugsley said that he was much impressed with the arguments set forth by the several speakers. The telephone was a public utility and he would like to see the interests of the province extended to every school district of the province. He would like to see the service so cheapened that it could be in every farm home in the province. If this was done it would certainly add to the pleasures of living in the country. Public ownership of telephones would certainly be a great forward step. It was not clear to him from the remarks made whether the delegates favored municipal ownership or ownership by the government of the province.

His own view was that it would be better to have one great system than a number of systems owned by cities or municipalities. The government should have control of the system and fix the rate of tolls. The service should be extended to every locality where there is a fair prospect of it becoming remunerative. He was of opinion that a large measure of control should be given to the municipalities and the company should be compelled to go to them for permission to string wires or lay conductors. He would be pleased to receive the views of the representatives and suggested that they draft a bill, and submit it to the government for adoption either whole or in part. He thought the government could look forward to the time when there will be a demand for public ownership of telephone systems, and when that question comes up there will also come the question of compensation. He believed when the amalgamation of the Central and New Brunswick Companies was completed that better accommodation would be given to the public.

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IN REGARD TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP he believed that legislation should be asked by the government to provide that the system can be taken over on paying the actual cost of the same together with an allowance of ten per cent. The company should not be given power to go before a board of arbitrators and ask for an allowance on prospective profits. He had it from gentlemen connected with the companies that they would not feel a proposition of this kind to be any hardship. He went on to say that when the company applied to the government in council for supplementary letters patent, the government felt that the matter was too important to be dealt with in that way, but that the company might come to the legislature where a measure could be enacted which, while not dealing harshly with the company, would amply protect the public interests.

Mr. Skinner took exception to a clause in the bill which proposed to give the company authority to use their lines for telegraphic business.

Mr. J. H. Barry, K. C. explained that the company now used their line about one third of the time for their own business. The only object for putting that clause in the bill was that the company's business in future might be transacted by telegraph, as the wires can be used for both purposes, and therefore more time would be given to the public.

Mr. W. B. Chandler, city solicitor of Moncton, submitted some suggestions in writing, and urged that the rights of municipalities be carefully guarded in any legislation that might be brought down.

THE OTHER SIDE.

Mr. J. H. Barry, K. C. counsel for the New Brunswick Telephone Company, was next heard by the committee. He spoke of the great importance of the telephone service to the people of the province, and admitted that many of the arguments put forth by Mr. Skinner were well

founded. He denied that the N. B. Telephone Company were asking for any monopoly in the matter as there was nothing exclusive about it. The N. B. company had acquired the business of the Central Company in a perfectly legitimate way, and had extended the service to all parts of the province. He did not think the union of municipalities of the province were doing themselves justice in trying to stifle the bill, without submitting something practical to take its place. He assured the committee that when the question of public ownership of telephones became a live question the company would not and could not oppose the acquiring of their property by the government. He declared that the company were not asking for any rights not now enjoyed by the two companies seeking amalgamation. The joint capital of the two companies was now \$1,600,000 and they were asking to increase it to \$2,000,000. He did not consider that an unreasonable proposition. He had heard much about watered stock but it is well known that companies only pay dividends upon their paid up capital. If it was found that the company was paying large profits and charging excessive rates, then it would be time enough for the government to step in and compel a reduction in rates to be made. He did not think that Recorder Skinner was justified in asking that a private corporation be compelled to submit a statement to the government.

The attorney general remarked that banks and loan companies had to do it.

Mr. Barry admitted that such was the case, but he thought that the conditions were not similar. He went on to say that those who had put their money into this enterprise twenty years ago were deserving of some consideration. They had extended and improved the service, until it now reached every part of the province.

Mr. Barry next read from the company's act of 1888, to show that it was a public utility. He said that the company were not asking for anything not now guaranteed them by their charters. It is the tendency of the times to centralize and for that reason the business of the Central Telephone Company had been taken over by the N. B. Company, and it was perfectly natural that his mind be only reason the company had for asking for legislation was that the capital stock might be increased. In regard to Mr. Skinner's suggestion he did not think the company should be asked to submit a statement of its affairs to the government each year.

Mr. Barry contended that the grounds of complaint of the union of municipalities would be covered by the bill, dealing with telephone companies, which the government had promised for this session.

MR. SKINNER'S REPLY.

Mr. Skinner replied briefly to the arguments advanced by Mr. Barry. He contended that the wants of his clients had been clearly made known to the government, although they had not yet been put into legal shape. It was only right that the people should ask for protection from the large corporations seeking legislative favors.

He alone had Mr. Barry's word for it that there was no over capitalization in the case of the telephone companies. He endeavored to obtain information in regard to the stockholders, but the premier had turned the tables on him by requesting that the government should hear the views on the bill. Mr. Skinner assured the committee he did not want to injure the company in any way, but wanted the rights of the public protected. In regard to the proposal to appoint an executive committee with all the powers of the directors, he thought that such a proposal should be looked upon with suspicion as it had a tendency to eliminate the stockholders. While this company was not a child it was certainly a grand child of the great Bell Telephone Company, which was certainly a monopoly.

Premier Pugsley said that he thought that all the objections raised by Mr. Skinner could be covered by a general bill, except the one relating to the increase of capital stock. He suggested that Mr. Barry procure the consent of the company to reduce the capital stock of the company to \$1,500,000. Mr. Whitehead pointed out that the company had during last year expended \$350,000 in making improvements and it was proposed to expend a further sum of \$250,000 this year. He did not know how the union of municipalities expected the company to extend and improve its service without the expenditure of money.

Mr. Barry said he could assure Mr. Skinner that the capital stock was absolutely necessary. If all the other objections can be met by a government bill, Mr. Skinner should be willing to withdraw his objection to the company increasing the capital.

Premier Pugsley said that if any increase of capital was allowed it would have to be a bona fide one, and actually subscribed for. Mr. Whitehead said he would take

MR. J. L. BLACK DEAD.

Prominent Citizen of Sackville and Brother-in-Law of Senator Thompson, Passed Away from Attack of Pneumonia.

Sackville, N. B., March 12.—(Special.)—Joseph L. Black, ex-M. P. P. a prominent resident of Middle Sackville passed away this morning after a brief illness from pneumonia. He had been in poor health for some years, but was quite active at times. He was 78 years old and was twice married, his first wife being Jane Humphrey, sister of the late John A. Humphrey, M. P. P. of Moncton, while his second who survives him was Mary Snowball, sister of the late Lt. Governor Snowball and of the late Mrs. F. P. Thompson of Fredericton.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Edmund Burke, Toronto, and Mrs. F. McDougall, Moncton, and two sons, Frank B. and J. Walter S. Black of Middle Sackville.

Deceased was a man of exceptional ability, and for many years played a prominent part in the history of the province.

He represented Westmorland for two terms in the house of assembly and at the time of his death was chairman of the executive of the board of regents of Mount Allison University, in which institution he always took a great interest. He was also until recently a director of the New Brunswick Telephone Company.

ST. JOHN WEDDING.

Young Lady Well Known in Fredericton Led to the Altar by Sydney Gentleman.

St. John, March 12.—(Special.)—A quiet but pretty wedding was celebrated at six o'clock this morning at St. John's Stone Church, when Alice Mary Armstrong, eldest daughter of Col. Andrew J. Armstrong was united in marriage to Arthur Edeker Juulien of Halifax, now accountant for the Sydney Cement Co., Sydney, N. S.

Rev. G. A. Kuhring officiated, and only immediate relatives were present.

There were no invited guests. The bride wore a suit of mulberry color with grey hat, grey and mulberry trimmings and pink furs. The bridesmaid, Miss Bertie N. Armstrong, sister of the bride wore light grey cloth with gold white and blue trimmings, a pale blue hat and carried pink carnations.

Fred E. Jubien, brother of the groom was best man. The church was prettily decorated.

After the ceremony the couple left by the 7 a. m. train for Halifax and will reside at Sydney.

the responsibility of saying that there was not a dollar of watered stock in the N. B. Telephone Co.

Mayor Munro wanted the right to use its electric light poles for telephone purposes restored to the town of Woodstock by the bill.

At the request of the premier Mayor Munro promised to send for a copy of the agreement between the town of Woodstock and the Union Company. The committee retired to consider the bill in private and after a short session adjourned until 7.30 o'clock this evening.

OPPOSED TO COMMISSION.

Moncton Clergymen Resolve Against Police Bill Now Before Legislature.

Moncton, March 12.—(Special.)—At a meeting of the Evangelical Alliance last evening the proposed commission for the police of Moncton was discussed and a resolution was passed opposing the bill now before legislature.

The Alliance expresses its disapproval of the commission and asks that vote of the citizens at least be taken before proposed legislation comes into force.

The resolution was telegraphed to Hons. C. W. Robinson and F. J. Sweeney, at Fredericton.

Ex-chief Chappell has an offer to go to Campbellton to take the position of chief of police of that town. He will go to Campbellton tonight to look into the situation.

FIFTEEN DROWNED.

Wholesale Loss of Life in a California River.

Redding, Cal., March 12.—(Special.)—Fifteen lives were lost in the Pitt river yesterday afternoon.

The victims were Greeks employed on the construction gangs of the Sacramento Valley and Eastern R. R.

They were crossing the river in a ferry-boat and in the middle of the river one man was pushed over, a panic ensued, the men crowded to the rails, the boat upset and all were drowned.

ST. JOHN, MARCH 12.—(Special.)—St. John circuit court opened this morning, Judge Gregory presiding.

There was no criminal business and the grand jury was discharged.

MARYSVILLE NEWS.

March 12.—There's a great deal of interest being taken in the skating races tomorrow night at our rink, when Morris Wood, the champion of America, and Hiltok Belyea, the crack speed skater of St. John, will meet. It is said that Belyea is going very fast this winter.

Saturday night, at St. John, he and Wood skated a dead heat in a half mile race, in the remarkably quick time of 1:27 3-5. On that occasion Belyea gave the champion all he could do.

Both these men will appear in our rink tomorrow night and try to break the Maritime record for the 2.20 half mile and one mile races. Bunkey Robinson will try wood again in the half mile, as Robinson is skating very fast and it will be a very interesting and exciting race. As the races will start at eight, there will be band for skating to the rink. There should be a large crowd present to see the champions breaking records.

It is rumored that a young lady, employed in the wave room is to be united in marriage to a young man working in the same department. The wedding is set down for tomorrow.

Miss Amy McDonald, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert McDonald, and her nephew, Fred McDonald, son of the late Murray McDonald, left by the 5.50 C. P. R. last evening for California, where in the future they expect to reside. Miss McDonald has already sisters in that country, whom she will visit. The Herald joins with their many friends in wishing them success in their new home.

There are very interesting and beneficial meetings being held in the Reformed Baptist Church and a great many people are coming forward and conversing with God. Rev. Mr. Traflet is conducting nightly meetings, which are the means of doing a great deal of good.

There is to be a grand concert at the residence of Mr. F. S. Williams tomorrow evening under the auspices of the young ladies of the Mission band in connection with the Methodist Church.

CLOSED ON SUNDAY.

Vancouver, B. C., March 12.—(Special.)—Vancouver drug stores were closed all day Sunday in protest against the Lord's Day Observance Act. Doctors characterized the druggists' action as inhuman.

Waiter (to guest who had complained that his napkin is full of holes)—Pardon, sir, I will bring another.

Guest—No, on second thought I'll keep this; at least the holes are clean.