

It was 1892. The horseless buggy was fast becoming a reality when the orchestral favourite, "The Nutcracker Suite," was composed by Peter I. Tschaiikowsky, and direct telephone service was successfully established for the first time between New York and Chicago, a distance of 1,000 miles.

It was the year 1892 that witnessed an important change in Cobden's way of life. The telephone had come to town!

Several years before, in 1886, a telephone line had been completed between Pembroke and Almonte passing through Cobden, Renfrew, Arnprior and Pakenham.

Five years later, when thought was being given to opening a telephone office in Cobden, L.B. McFarlane, an official of The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, wrote to Robert Allen of Cobden: "There appears to be so much diversity of opinion on the choice of an agent in Cobden that no matter whom we appointed we would lose the business of some portion of the community.

"Hence, it is not in this Company's interest to side with either party in the dispute, and our decision in the matter is to defer opening an office until such time as the parties interested can decide upon a man who will give general satisfaction and be acceptable to the business men of Cobden."