

Telegraphs and Telephones.

As to telegraph companies, the tax would be one-quarter of 1 per cent. on the paid-up capital. According to the best information he could get, the paid-up capital of those companies was, say, \$4,375,000. A telegraph company owning a line that was worked by others would pay a tax of one-tenth of 1 per cent. on the paid-up capital of such company, except where the company

owning the line was already taxable. The company operating or working the line would pay a tax of 1 per cent. upon the paid-up capital.

Telephone companies would pay one-sixth of 1 per cent., and the paid-up capital, so far as he could learn, was in the aggregate \$4,000,000.

Natural Gas Companies.

Natural gas companies would pay a tax, and also companies which transmitted gas across the Niagara or Detroit Rivers, whether they produced it or not. Companies producing gas would pay \$5,000 a year. If a company transmitted as well as produced gas it would pay an additional \$2,000. On every company transmitting or transporting gas the tax would be \$2,500. The remission or reduction of the tax would be permitted in the case of the smaller companies which produced only for domestic purposes.

Express companies, two of them pay \$2,000 each. Pullman car companies, two of them pay a similar tax.

Founded on Equity.

In conclusion Mr. Harcourt again referred to Quebec Province, where for years similar taxes have been imposed, aggregating in a single year \$780,000, of which \$194,000 came from commercial corporations, and \$29,000 from manufacturing industries. Since the act was in force the tax on commercial corporations has aggregated \$780,000, and that on traders \$348,000. The principle of the bill was, he contended, equitable and would to some measure obviate the great irritation and dissatisfaction and agitation which had arisen in the United States from the fact that the real property pays nine-tenths of the taxes of the country, while the personal property, which is the larger portion of the wealth, pays only one-tenth. The bill is in the right direction in its equity and fairness, in the distribution of the State burdens; it has the merits of truth and justice on its side, and every member must recognize that it is a measure of unusual importance, every section of which will be closely examined. He insisted that that examination and criticism should be aside from party and with regard to the weal of the nation, and in the interests of the whole people and not of any particular party.

Revenue expected.

In reply to Mr. Matheson, Hon. Mr. Harcourt stated that the approximate estimate of revenue to be obtained by the bill was as follows:—

Telegraph companies, something under	\$11,000
Telephones, something under ..	7,000
Sleeping cars	6,000

Express companies	6,000
Natural gas companies	15,000
Trust companies	3,000
Life insurance companies	42,000
Other insurance companies	17,000
Loan companies (permanent capital)	24,000
Loan companies (terminating) ..	3,000
Street railways	13,000
Railways receiving Provincial aid	20,000
And from the license bill, approximately	100,000

Mr. Whitney's Criticisms.

Mr. Whitney said that the Provincial Treasurer had ventured to make arguable and disputable propositions, and had represented certain statements as having been uttered by members of the Opposition upon a number of questions under consideration. To these he might have replied, but, having regard to the seriousness of the present subject, he would refrain from any detailed remarks. The magnitude and the seriousness of the propositions advanced by Mr. Harcourt were such that no member of the House would be justified in discussing them without deliberation, and in a spirit of the highest regard for the welfare of the country. The Treasurer's propositions that afternoon comprised the whole financial history of this Government for 25 years past, and to-day they had simply to consider the fact that owing to the action, and in many respects the non-action, of hon. gentlemen opposite, with regard to the financial interests of Ontario, they had arrived in this free Province at that stage and condition when almost the hearth-stones and the windows and chimneys were to be taxed. To-day by the confession of hon. gentlemen opposite themselves they were face to face and struggling with direct taxation. Eighteen years ago The Globe warned the Government that the maximum of outlay had been reached, and that unless a halt were called at once the approach of direct taxation, then in view, would be much shortened. If the Opposition were not actuated by a strong interest in the welfare of the Province they might congratulate themselves now that at last the hour of their triumph had arrived, and that what they had predicted had come to pass. And the most significant feature of it all was that the man who heralded the financial want of success of the Government was the very man who had charge of the finances of the Province.

The motion for the first reading was then agreed to.

Dairy School Students.

Replying to Mr. Carnegie, Hon. Mr. Dryden said:—"The number of students who attended the Eastern Dairy