

OPPOSITION TO BELL CO.

LONG-DISTANCE LINE COMPANY GRANTED A FRANCHISE.

Which May Have to be Bought Back
Later on—Must Spend \$200,000 in
Two Years—York Loan Reorganiza-
tion Bill Withdrawn.

The Independent Long-distance Telephone Company's bill occupied the time of the Private Bills Committee to a great extent yesterday, and the committee granted the company a franchise for which the Government will have to pay in case of expropriation in the future, only Chairman Carscallen, Messrs. MacKay, Bradburn and Auld voting to preserve the people's rights.

The sum of \$200,000 must be spent within one year by the company, or the Bell Telephone Company will retain the right to make exclusive contracts, and this sum must be spent within two years or the franchise will be forfeited. Some sharp passages occurred during the discussion, Mr. McDougall declaring that undue influence had been used upon the committee, an insinuation which Mr. George Lynch-Staunton indignantly repudiated on behalf of the Bell Telephone Company.

Mr. James Bicknell, K.C., stated the objects of the bill to provide for the reorganization of the York County Loan & Savings Company. He represented certain shareholders in Hamilton and Toronto, but the shareholders generally had not been referred to. Mr. W. T. White, representing the liquidators, the National Trust Company, opposed the bill. The York County Loan Company was clearly insolvent, he said, and if the proposed company was incorporated it would be insolvent, and a winding-up order could be taken out against it next day. The wholesale scheme he considered impracticable, unfeasible and not to be worked out. Mr. Bicknell withdrew the bill.

THE AUTOMOBILE BILL.

Discussed Briefly in the Municipal Committee of the Legislature.

The Municipal Committee of the Legislature held its last session yesterday and wound up with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, Hon. Mr. Hanna, moved and seconded respectively by Messrs. Preston (Brant) and Fisher. The automobile bill was discussed for a few moments. Mr. McNaught thought it unfair that the offence of failing to keep the number of an automobile clear was put among the most serious of offences. Forgetfulness on the part of an automobilist to polish up the number might result in his being sent to jail. The Chairman advised that any further discussion of the measure or any proposed amendments should take place or be moved when the bill reaches the House, and the matter was dropped. No doubt amendments will be moved in the House.