

SEEKS CONTROL OF TELEPHONES

Mr. Charters Submits Bill to Legislature.

ONE CENTRAL AUTHORITY.

All Companies to be Under Provincial Act.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane Presents Amendment to Permit Official Removal of Beavers in Algonquin Park — Bill to Make Berlin a City — Budget Debate to be Resumed To-day.

Mr. Sam Charters proposes to grapple with the whole telephone problem in Ontario. He gave formal notice at the Legislature yesterday of the introduction of a bill entitled "The Ontario Telephone Act." It is a comprehensive and radical effort to deal with all the independent companies operating in the rural districts of the Province, to secure co-operative and satisfactory service and to prevent the exercise of monopolistic regulations by the larger corporation.

The member for Peel has devoted considerable thought to the preparation of his measure and will urge its adoption upon the House. He has been in communication with other Provinces and several states of the Union and has endeavored to evolve a plan of Provincial control with a view to effectually removing many of the anomalies which at present characterize telephone communication in the rural districts.

Provincial Control of Telephones.

The act places the control of the telephone systems of the Province under the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board. Under the bill the Board will have jurisdiction to enquire into, hear and determine all complaints and matters, whether of law or of fact affecting the Local and Municipal Telephone Systems Act, 1908, or this act, or any special act, to make orders and regulations, to prescribe penalties for violation of the provisions of any of these acts.

The Board shall also have power and right to approve of all tolls to be charged by any company or person. Every company shall file with the Board tariffs of any telephone tolls to be charged and the Board may determine the manner and form in which any tariff or tariffs of telephone tolls shall be published or kept open for public inspection.

Terms of the Act.

Subject to the approval of the Board every company shall have power to enter into an agreement with any other company to provide for connection, joint operation or interchange and transmission of business between the systems owned or operated by such companies and make arrangement for the proper apportionment of expenditures, commissions, receipts and profits or other arrangements which may be necessary under any such agreement.

Where telephone systems or lines are adjacent to those of another company which refuses to enter into agreement, the Board has power to issue an order providing for connection, joint operation or such other transmission of business upon such terms as it may deem advisable.

All contracts, agreements and ar-

rangements between companies, and other companies having authority, to construct or operate a telephone system or line, no matter whence their authority is derived, for the regulation and interchange of messages and lines, or division of tolls, or in relation to the management, or operation of the systems or lines shall be subject to the approval of the Board and shall be submitted to them before such contracts or agreements shall have any force or effect.

Must Not Increase Cost.

No company or person shall have power to enter into any contract or agreement with any other company or person having authority to construct or operate a telephone system or line, no matter whence the authority was derived, which shall increase the cost of telephone service to the public or restrict competition unless or until a by-law setting forth the terms of such contract or agreement has been submitted to and received the assent of the electors of the municipalities as required by the Consolidated Municipal Act of 1903.

On receipt of application from any person for telephone service the company or person shall furnish same within a reasonable period of time upon the applicant complying with such terms and conditions as the company or person is authorized by law to require from such applicant; and no company or person shall be required to furnish telephone service in cases

where the cost of installing same exceeds \$50.00.

Rangers May Kill Beavers.

Hon. Frank Cochrane made an important announcement when the Government consolidation bill respecting Algonquin Park was being passed through its committee stage. The Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines added a new clause, under which, subject to restrictions, the management of the Park will be given authority to kill beavers. This regulation is the result of prevailing conditions and the amount of damage caused by the multitude of animals that make their abode in the park.

Could Kill a Thousand.

"One thousand could be killed and they would never be missed," was Hon. Mr. Cochrane's declaration. He added that to prevent outsiders taking illegal advantage of the new clause an official Government stamp has been secured, the design of which has been registered at Ottawa, and all skins will be so stamped before being sold.

The clause was adopted by the House.

Private Members Day.

The Legislative sitting was otherwise brief and formal. It was private members' day and the introduction of nineteen measures resulted. These were largely applications for confirmation of municipal enactments. Mr. A. B. Thompson (Centre Simcoe) presented the bill incorporating the town of Berlin as a city and the document was given a first reading.

Debate to be Resumed.

The debate on the budget will be resumed this afternoon. Mr. R. J. McCormick of East Lambton, being the first speaker. The debate will continue over until next week.

FALL FAIRS A BENEFIT.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES NOW EXCHANGING VIEWS.

Largest Convention of Ontario Associations of Fairs and Exhibitions Ever Held in This City—Many Interesting Addresses Given.

The largest number of delegates ever in attendance at a meeting of the Ontario Association of Fairs and Exhibitions was present at the opening of the tenth annual meeting of the association in the City Council chamber yesterday afternoon. Fully 300 men were present, and they represented sections of Ontario from Kenora to Glengarry. Mr. H. J. Gould, Uxbridge, President of the association, presided. Mayor Geary

welcomed the delegates, and his Worship expressed appreciation of the work being done by the agricultural fairs. The afternoon session was adjourned early, and the association waited on Ministers of the Government with a request for an increase of \$30,000 in the present grant, \$70,000 per year.

President Gould, in his annual address, emphasized the importance of the farmers and the fall fairs. "More than ever before," said he, "are the residents of our towns and cities discovering how closely their interests are allied with those of the farmers. The fair is the most opportune time and place to view the best product of not only the farm, but all the other lines of industry and trade." The President suggested a better system of selecting breeding stock than now obtains, and he thought expert inspectors might be appointed by the Government in connection with the breeding of horses. He regarded the swine industry as a credit to the farmers. Sheep had declined in numbers, but poultry raising was going forward. Regret was expressed that the cheese output had fallen off considerably. Butter, however, was of good quantity and quality and high in price. The need of a substantial increase in the Government grant was referred to.

Dr. J. U. Simmons, Frankford, First Vice-President, led a discussion on the President's address, which was adopted with marked evidences of approval. Dr. Simmons deprecated the so-called amusement features of fall fairs, and suggested that it would be better to do away with them and devote the money they cost to increasing the prizes.

Mr. J. Lockie Wilson, Toronto, Superintendent of Fairs, presented an interesting report. He made a proposal that the Province be divided into twelve districts in connection with the 350 societies in the association, and a director on the association be appointed from each district. Superintendent Wilson proposed a scheme to insure agricultural societies against loss by reason of wet weather during fall fairs. His scheme included the provision of a fund of \$12,000 to be taken from the amount available from the Government grant of \$70,000. The \$12,000 would cover 75 per cent. of the average losses in the gate receipts in the worst seasons. A discussion on Superintendent Wilson's proposal will take place this morning.

The standing field crop competition was reported as meeting with increasing favor. Superintendent Wilson stated that last year 80 agricultural societies, entered the competition with 1,500 farmers, putting an area of 20,000 acres under crop. The departmental judge system was expanding. Last year 255 judges had been sent out by the Provincial Agricultural Department.

At the evening session Mr. T. G. Raynor, Ontario representative of the Dominion Government seed division, Ottawa, gave a paper on "Educational and financial benefits from standing field crop competitions." Mr. John Campbell, Woodville, gave a paper on "Preparing sheep for exhibition." Addresses were given by Hon. J. S. Duff, Minister of Agriculture; President G. C. Creelman of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and Prof. W. J. Black, Manitoba College, Winnipeg.

Hon. Mr. Duff advised the association to try to bring about a greater consolidation of the fairs in Ontario. He said there was a waste of energy in the multiplicity of small fairs. President Creelman took advantage of the opportunity to deny the rumor that he was going to enter politics. He said he hoped to remain with the Agricultural College for many years.