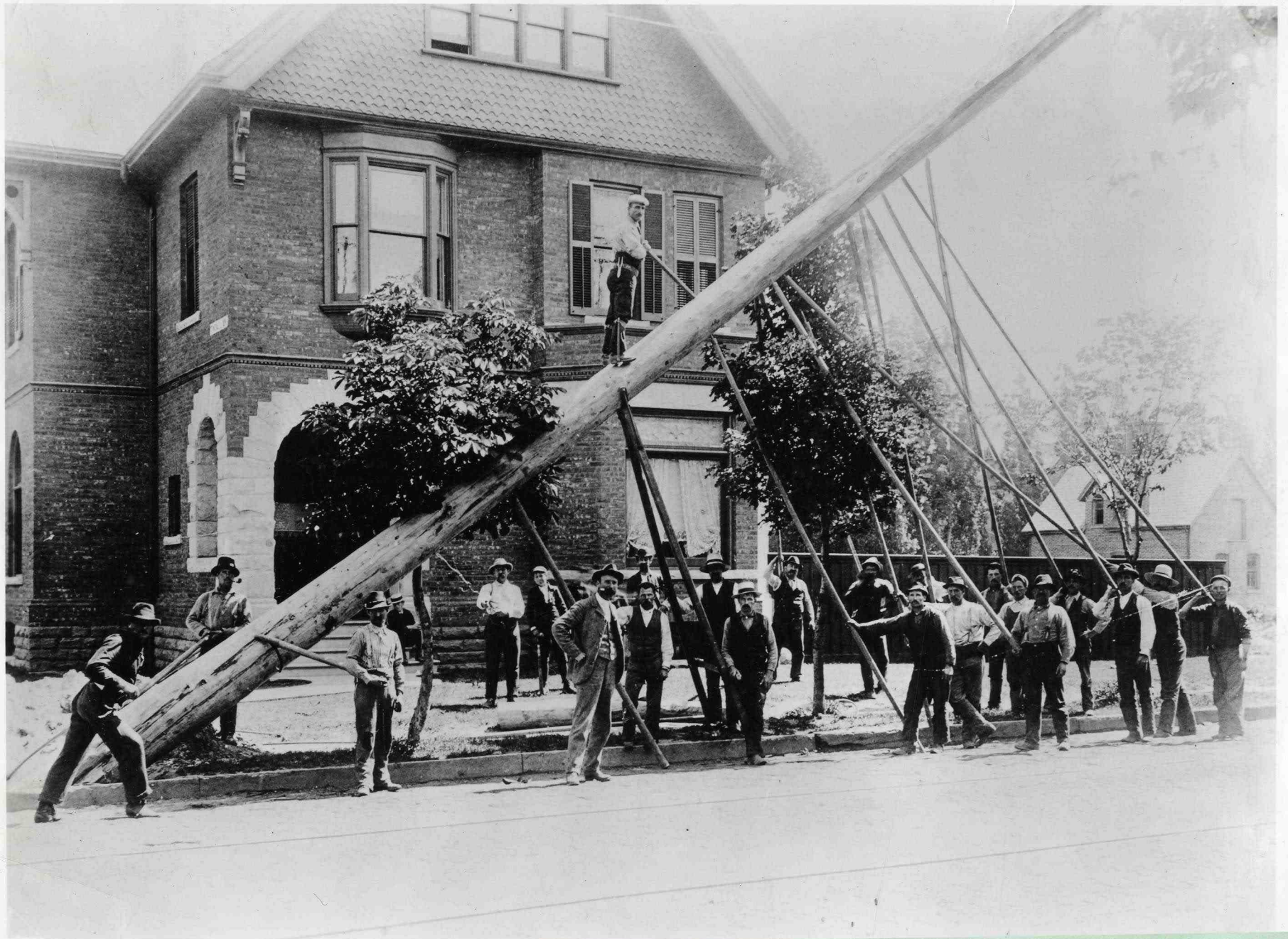




A typical telephone exchange of the nineties and early 1900's with standard switchboard and calculagraph for timing long distance calls. Belmont subscribers made long distance calls through the facilities of the Bell company by agreement with the Bell for connection with their long distance lines.



Pole line erection in the early days required sturdy shoulders and pole raising attracted audiences in town and village.



Telephone men posed on the tall timber for the edification of the passers-by and participated in antics which would be frowned upon by the safety-conscious telephone people of today.

Alexander Graham Bell disclosed the telephone idea to his father while vacationing at the Bell Homestead in Brantford in July 1874.

After his holiday the inventor returned to Boston where he was engaged as a teacher of the deaf and there continued his telephone experiments which resulted in the successful transmission of speech sounds in June 1875. Three tests of the telephone took place at Brantford in 1876 and the third of these, on August 10, 1876, is recognized as the world's first long distance telephone call.

Graham Bell gave three quarters of the Canadian telephone rights to his father, Professor Melville Bell, who in 1877 began to promote the new instrument by advertising, by giving demonstrations and by appointing agents for the telephone in towns and cities.

The first lease of telephones in Canada was signed by Prime Minister, the Honourable Alexander Mackenzie in 1877. Instruments were for use between the Department of Public Works and the residence of the Governor-General, the Earl of Dufferin.

The Bell Telephone Company of Canada was incorporated in April 1880 and by the end of that year had erected some 2,000 miles of wire and opened 32 exchanges