

APPENDIX No. 1

Q.—*Mechanicsburg Telephone Co., Ohio.*—We serve one village, Mechanicsburg, population 1,700, and two small villages of about 500 inhabitants. Main office at Mechanicsburg, and sub-exchanges at the villages seven miles distant. We tried to serve the villages with party lines to the main office, but found it better to install a sub-exchange where the farm lines could centre if the telephones served amounted to one hundred or upward. We put ten farmers on one line, using straight bridging instruments. We have about 125 miles of pole lines, carrying from twenty wires on the main leads down to two on short side lines. Our subscribers are satisfied with the service, and the business is profitable. The manager is a practical telephone man, and he and our troubleman keep the plant in good shape. Our salary account, not including new construction work for the year 1904, was \$2,688. With good instruments and good construction two men can take care of 1,000 telephones nicely.

R.—*Rural Telephone Co., Highland County, Ohio.*—Our company is a small rural and village company, covering only about four townships. We have free toll connections with the Hillsboro Co., which operates the county seat. The Bell does not operate in this territory except a few telephones in northern part of our territory from their Hillsboro exchange. We use a four party selective system on our rural lines.

S.—*Mentor Telephone Co., Ohio.*—Rural rates for full metallic line up to six miles: One subscriber, \$72; two on line, \$36; three on line, \$25; four or more, \$18, per annum. Connect with the United States long-distance companies lines. We get 25 per cent of receipts on outgoing, nothing on incoming, messages.

T.—*Ada Telephone Exchange Co., Ohio.*—Surplus used to build new lines. We own five small exchanges and 140 miles of toll circuits, and operate with the United States long-distance company. We are increasing our plant about 200 'phones per annum, and could go faster if we had the money. Every farmer almost in our territory wants a telephone, and wants to be connected with our exchanges. We charge toll between our exchanges, and keep our prices low, thus bringing the service within the reach of all.

U.—*Port Byrne Telephone Co., N.Y.*—We exchange service over the long-distance lines of the Inter-Ocean Telephone Co.

V.—*Blakesburg Telephone and Telegraph Co., Iowa.*—We used all the surplus revenue in extending plant up to this year. Paid 8 per cent dividend, and struck off \$300 for an emergency fund a few days ago. Our whole cost, including 100-line board equipped with 30 jacks, arrestors, 20 miles of B.B. iron full metallic lines, 30 'phones, 175 feet of 102 wire cable, poles 25 and 30 feet, &c., was \$2,000. Since added from profits about \$700 in lines, jacks and 'phones. Party lines owned by farmers have from six to twenty-five on each, and connect at the town limits, where we take them and put them on our switchboard at \$3 per 'phone per year.

W.—*Mutual Telephone Co., Des Moines, Iowa.*—Surplus used for construction. Total earnings about 17 per cent net.

X.—*Northern Rural Telephone Co., Iowa.*—Rate of \$14 per annum includes service to every town in county. Toll charges 20c. within county; 30c. to all other towns reached. Our system is made up entirely of rural 'phones, with some 'phones in the smaller country towns. We have, I think, the largest and most complete rural system in the northwest. Our patrons are very well satisfied, as is evidenced from the fact that we have more calls to put in telephones at our rates than we can fill, in spite of the fact that several movements have been made, and have been carried out in part, to build farmer lines independent of our system. We usually run from 12 to 20 'phones per line, and sometimes as high as 17 miles of wire on a line, and have no trouble in ringing the most distant subscriber. All 'phones have condensers in them.