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No. 93.

NEW YORK LIFE BUILDING, 11 PLACE D'ARMES,
MONTREAL, May 23, 1905.

Hon. Sir Wm. MULOCK,
President Telephone Inquiry Committee,
Ottawa, Ont.

SIR,—I have followed with much interest the work of the committee upon telephone operation in Canada, the more so as for my part, I have had numerous reasons for complaint against the Bell telephone service in Montreal. I regret that I was away during the examination of Mr. Sise. Perhaps this gentleman could have given some explanation upon the following point. The statute 2 Edw. VII., ch. 41, sec. 2, says: 'Upon the application of any person. . . . the company shall with all reasonable despatch furnish telephones of the latest improved design then in use by the company in the locality, and telephone service for premises. . . . upon tender or payment of the lawful rate semi-annually in advance.'

Now, the Bell Company claims that the best instrument is what they call the long-distance telephone, but the company does not furnish this instrument, as it is obliged to do, for the ordinary subscription price, but it charges for it \$5 extra per annum.

The company may say that this is the legal rate, but it seems to me that since it must furnish only one kind of instrument, that is the best, it cannot have two sets of rates.

More than that, the employees of the company absolutely refuse to accept subscriptions for the Blake, or ordinary telephone, for service in the east exchange in Montreal, where the subscription price for residences was formerly \$30, but they require that the subscriber should take the long-distance instrument and that he should pay \$35.

This is only a few of the numerous abuses to which the Bell Company is subjecting the public, and for which, I trust, the committee will find a remedy.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

EMILE JOSEPH.

No. 94.

MICHIGAN INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION,
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, May 25, 1905.

Sir Wm. MULOCK, K.C.M.G.,
Postmaster General,
Ottawa, Ontario.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 22nd at hand. The telephonic condition in the state of Michigan is comparatively analysed as follows:—

In 1896, previous to competition and the initial independent movement, the Bell Company had in this state about 13,000 telephones in the two peninsulas. Its rates in cities like Grand Rapids were \$40 and up for residence 'phones, and \$50 and up for business 'phones. Here it had less than 1,500 'phones in service. Toll line rates in the state, never less than 25c. for any service, averaged about one cent a mile. Most of the service was given with grounded circuits or common return, with what are known as Blake transmitters.

With the inception of the independent movement a radical change in rates ensued. In this city the Citizens' Telephone Company, of which I am secretary, charges \$36 a year for business 'phones and \$24 a year for residence 'phones, where the prices formerly stated ranged from \$50 to \$115 on business and \$40 to \$65 for residence 'phones. Long-distance rates on the independent system are running at about one-half cent per mile for day service, with about a 60 per cent fee on sums in excess of twenty-five cents for night service. The service now is almost invariably full metallic, the transmitters being of what is termed the granular carbon or long-distance type. The independents claim to have nearly 70,000 telephones in the lower peninsula of Michigan, with several