



Canadian Independent Telephone Association

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AUDITORS:

C. B. Adams, Harrietsville, Ont.; Dr. Dales, Stouffville, Ont.

Third Annual Convention

City Hall, Toronto, Wednesday, September 8th

PROGRAMME

10 a. m.—Meeting called to order.

Address of welcome.

Reports.

Papers and Addresses:

Independent Telephone Situation in Canada.

By F. Dagger, Dr. Demers, T. R. Mayberry, M.L.A.

Is the Telephone a natural monopoly?

By F. Dagger.

Good Construction.

Proper Rates for Rural Service.

Collections.

Independent Telephones in Railway Stations.

By C. Skinner.

Exchange Directory.

By Dr. Doan.

Reasonable Toll Connection Relations.

Good Operating.

Forced Physical Connection.

The Edmonton Automatic Telephone System

W. E. Baker, Edmonton, Alta.

The City of Edmonton certainly took a bold plunge when she decided to install an automatic telephone system, but the wisdom of the course pursued has been amply verified. To the ordinary individual, the system soon recommends itself, and as there is practically nothing to be learned, even little children are able to use the automatic 'phone with very little tuition.

Some of the chief merits of the Strowger System, which is the automatic 'phone system that was installed at Edmonton a year ago, are: secrecy, rapidity and simplicity for the user. On arriving at the office in the morning, I often require to get a good many market reports from different parts of the city, chiefly as to prices of produce. By sitting down to the automatic 'phone and turning the dial rapidly from one number to another, I have in a few minutes acquired the mass of information that might under the old system have taken me the best part of an hour or longer, waiting for connections. That is rapidity. The simplicity needs no explaining, and the secrecy is assured, as I myself connect up direct with the offices from which I require information, and there is no third party on the wire.

The Calgary Herald, of recent date, in regard to the manual system in force there, says: "The telephone service is getting poorer all the time. The slowness of the answers, and inaccuracies in connections are in striking contrast to the efficiency of the automatic service in Edmonton. Will the Government please inject a little efficiency into the local office, or change it for a system which human imperfections cannot injure?"

The Edmonton Automatic Telephone system was installed by the Automatic Electric Company, of Chicago, who own the Strowger patents, in the spring of 1908, with 1,000 'phones, and in the year that has intervened,

the 'phones in use have nearly doubled, so that we now have 2,000 'phones in use in Edmonton, so perfectly satisfactory has the service been to all concerned. The town of Strathcona lies south of Edmonton, on the other side of a deep valley, with the Saskatchewan River between. One hundred automatic 'phones were installed in Strathcona last year, and, in a year's time, there will be found there in use to-day three hundred. Strathcona, of course, is a much smaller place than Edmonton.

Both cities are connected with trunk lines, so a call can be put in from a private 'phone in Edmonton to another private 'phone in Strathcona, in exactly the same way that a call is made within the confines of either place, although these cities must be two miles apart, or if a call is made from the northern limit of Edmonton to the southern limit of Strathcona, the distance would be four miles or more.

The Parliament Buildings have also a private branch, so that each office in the Government Buildings can have connection with any 'phone on the outside. The whole three systems of Edmonton, Strathcona and the Government Offices work simply and without a hitch. These three automatic systems are all connected with the Alberta Provincial Long Distance System at the Parliament Buildings, so that by going to our own 'phone we can communicate from our own desks with places 400 miles south of us or at any point in the Province on the Government System or with Local 'phones.

This combination has been so satisfactory that recently the Hon. W. H. Cushing, Minister of Public Works for Alberta, went to Chicago to study the larger systems of automatic 'phones that had been in operation some years. He came back recently so satisfied that the Alberta Government has now adopted the Strowger Standard equipment for the Province, and has closed a contract for a system of 1,000 automatic 'phones to be installed at Lethbridge, with a full capacity, to be used later if required, of 5,000.

A branch exchange is also being put in for East Cal-