

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

The charges for local conversations at the public offices are from 10 centimes (2 cents) to 15 centimes (3 cents) per call.

The long distance charges vary greatly according to distance. The time allowed for conversation is 3 minutes.

Over the long distance lines, which belong to the government, the greatest distance reached is 1,700 kilometres (1062½ miles).

The telephone apparatus used are those of the Kellogg Company and the Antwerp Telephone and Electrical Works.

City lines are of bronze, of 1.25 m.m. Those of the country are of steel, of 2 m.m. There are single and metallic circuits.

The proportion of overhead and underground work varies a good deal between both. About one-third is underground.

The total amount expended for the whole plant has been 9,700,000 lire (\$1,940,000).

The revenue for the past year was about 2,200,000 lire (\$440,000).

The total expenditure for maintenance and operating expenses, not including depreciation, was 1,200,000 lire (\$240,000).

The profit depends greatly on the amount set aside for the sinking fund. In any case, this amount is always high, and consequently the profits are small. During the past year 6 per cent was paid to the preferred shares, and 4 per cent to the other shares.

The rate of wages is as follows: Managers and foremen, from 5,000 lire (\$965) to 18,000 lire (\$3,474) yearly. Instrument men and wire men from 1,000 lire (\$193) to 2,000 lire (\$386) yearly. Switchboard operators, from 720 lire (\$138.96) to 1,500 lire (\$289.50) yearly.

The cost of the material is according to the normal rates, and varies somewhat; so that we find it difficult to give a detailed answer to this question.

The long distance lines belong, for the most part, to the government, and are controlled by us only to a very small degree.

Simultaneous telegraph and telephone wires do not exist. The government has decided to use the system of Brunè and Turchi.

The long distance lines are solely of metallic circuit, and are of bronze. The gauge is 4 m.m., and for the longest wires 5 m.m.

The private companies are responsible to the government for the collection of long distance charges, and are obliged to collect and pay them in.

A competitive system exists in Rome. This is a system with less than 500 subscribers. We do not think that it has any effect on the charges and service.

We have no special system. The calling system is magneto. The multiple switchboards are vertical and horizontal—these last are of the Siemens type. The intercommunicating central wires are of our own special type. For the smaller exchanges we use the Standard switchboard of 100 numbers. All the inside wires are of double metallic circuit.