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No. 81.

BEDFORD, N.S., May 10, 1905.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G.,
Chairman Select Committee on Telephone Systems.

SIR,—I have your letter of the 1st instant, asking for information regarding the Hammond's Plains Telephone Company, and I have the honour to give you the following information:—

The company is a very small one and only operates over a very limited territory. I am a practising physician in this village, Bedford. We have had here telephone connection for several years with the Nova Scotia Telephone Company, but all the outlying districts in which I practice, covering a radius of about fifteen miles from here, have never until recently had any telephone service. Some of these rural parts have a daily and others a tri-weekly mail. About three years ago I approached the Nova Scotia Telephone Company and asked them to extend their lines to some of those places. They said there was not business enough to warrant them to build lines up to their standard of construction, but they, the (N. S. Company), suggested that we build these lines ourselves and they would give us connection at Bedford with their system. I went all through these rural districts and saw the people, and succeeded in getting enough money subscribed to build and equip nearly twenty-five miles of line; we started from my office here in Bedford with two main lines in two directions, and as we got away from the village we branched off in other directions, so that we have all or nearly all the outlying rural districts connected with my office. I have a switchboard here and make connections with the Nova Scotia Telephone Company, for any point in its system or its connections. Our little local company has been a success and is satisfactory in every way, our subscribers are all farmers, coopers, country store keepers, and small mill owners. We bought all our building material from the Nova Scotia Telephone Company. We have twenty-three miles of line, eighteen subscribers, (sixteen residence telephones and two shop telephones) and cover a territory that is served by eight post offices. The total cost of building and equipping the twenty-three miles of line was about \$1,200. We charge subscribers \$5 per year for a telephone. This gives them free service over the local line. The toll rate over the local line is ten cents for non-subscribers. When connection is made with the Nova Scotia Company the toll rate is ten cents plus the Nova Scotia Company rate for subscribers and non-subscribers. We pay five per cent dividend to those who subscribed the money to build the line (last year ten per cent), and we are able to place from ten per cent to twelve per cent each year at rest as a reserve fund. This after paying all expenses. The country people are delighted with the service, and they really have a much better service than they would have had if the large company had built a line or lines to these places as I asked them to do at first.

If there is any other information which I can give you I should be very glad to do so.

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. MCD. MORTON, M.D.

No. 82.

FREDERICK S. DICKSON, President. J. B. RHODES, Secretary and General Manager.
SHERMAN M. GRANGER, Vice-President. R. W. JUDD, Treasurer.

THE ZANESVILLE TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

ZANESVILLE, Ohio, May 23, 1905.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK, Postmaster General,
Ottawa, Ontario.

DEAR SIR,—I have your favour of the 1st instant and note same carefully. I regret that I have not at this time facilities for answering in detail all of the questions included in your circular.