

The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, 1896.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the shareholders of the Bell Telephone Co., was held on Thursday, the 25th February, 1897. The president, Mr. C. F. Sise, presided; and the secretary, Mr. Chas. P. Sclater, acted as secretary of the meeting. There was a large and influential attendance of shareholders.

Messrs. C. F. Sise, W. C. McIntyre, Robert Mackay, Robert Archer, Chas. Cassils, C. R. Hosmer, D. Ross Ross, Geo. A. Greene, John Crawford, F. G. Payne, Hugh Paton, A. J. Dawes, T. S. Hood, Jas. Shearer, Chas. Garth, Jas. Wilson, Geo. F. Caverhill, Robert Simms, H. A. Budden, Hector Mackenzie, Herbert Wallis, R. W. Shepherd, W. R. Driver, F. X. St. Charles, J. A. Vaillancourt, J. R. Walker, R. P. McLea, G. M. Kinghorn, Reid Taylor, Alex. Paterson, M. S. Foley, Wm. Smith, F. S. Lyman, Geo. H. Holt, J. E. Mullin and F. B. McNamee.

The Directors beg to submit their seventeenth Annual Report.

653 Subscribers have been added during the year, the total number of sets of instruments now earning rental being 29,462.

The Company now owns and operates 341 Exchanges and 275 Agencies.

176 miles of poles and 1,013 miles of wire have been added to the Long Distance system in 1896; of these 11 pole miles and 236 wire miles are in the Ontario Department, and 165 pole miles and 777 wire miles are in the Eastern Department.

The Long Distance Lines, now owned and operated by the Company, comprise 15,864 miles of wire on 6,060 miles of poles.

The new building in Montreal is nearly completed, and will be ready for occupancy in May.

The new building in Winnipeg was completed and occupied about Nov. 1st, and fully answers our expectations.

Under authority of the Shareholders, \$273,500 Bonds have been sold during the year, and the premium thereon, averaging $7\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., viz., \$19,491.25, has been carried to the Contingent Fund.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT MACKAY,
Vice-President.

CHAS. F. SISE,
President.

MONTREAL, February 25th, 1897.

After a few remarks from the president, Mr. John Crawford discussed the situation. He referred to the conduit troubles of the past year and the unfeeling manner in which the city "fathers"—or would he call them "step-fathers"?—had treated the company. Mr. Crawford was unable to see the justice of the opposition on the part of the people of Toronto to an increase in the telephone rates. The citizens of Toronto should remember what the company had lost in the past, and not forget that what the company had lost the subscribers had gained.

Mr. Crawford next expressed a doubt as to the advisability of extending the long distance service. He did not consider it as profitable as the short distance.—The report was then unanimously adopted. A few remarks further were made by Mr. Crawford, who appeared to voice the sentiments of the meeting. The old board of directors was unanimously re-elected, and the proceedings terminated.