

metallizing all lines in Halifax, where a relay central energy board which has been put in is giving very satisfactory results. All leads into the Halifax central are now underground. The business has grown largely during the past year.

Last fall the Co. issued \$100,000 of new stock to cover the improvements above mentioned. A portion of this was bought by J. C. McIntosh, who recently put it on the market and sold it at 122½, or \$12.25 a share. In this connection he issued a circular from which the following is extracted:—"In 1888 the entire plant was purchased from the Bell Telephone Co. of Canada, consisting then of under 900 telephones, and no trunk line, giving a yearly revenue of about \$20,000. The N.S. Telephone Co. issued \$170,000 of stock to pay for and improve this plant, subsequently increasing it by \$30,000, making it \$200,000 on which 6% dividends have been paid regularly, and over \$100,000 added to reserve and profit and loss accounts. In 1900 the capital was increased to \$300,000, the increased amount being issued for extensions and improvements, including a relay switchboard. An idea of the completeness of this switchboard may be obtained when it is known that it is capable of making nearly 9,900,000 different connections. When the new switchboard and connections are in complete working order the telephone system of Nova Scotia will equal any in America. At the close of 1900 the plant of the Co. consisted of 610 miles of poles, carrying 1,161 miles of copper wire and 447 miles of galvanized iron wire, making a total mileage of 1,608. The telephones in use have increased from 900 in 1888, to 2,500 in 1900, and the gross revenue from \$20,000 to \$82,347 in the same period. Increased connections will probably at no distant date be made, extending the business direct to Cape Breton and the western counties, so that it is not unreasonable to expect an increased dividend at no remote period."

Professor Bell on the Telephone.

Professor A. G. Bell writes:—"It is exactly 26 years since I put up my first telephone. At that time I was visiting at my father's house in Brantford, Ont. We obtained the permission of the Canadian Government to use a telegraph line four miles long that extended from Brantford to a neighboring village. We put up our apparatus in a friend's house, kindly loaned for the purpose, and as it was over half a mile from the telegraph line, we were obliged to lengthen the wire. No additional telegraph wire was available, so what do you think we used? You would never guess. We could find nothing in the hardware stores but stovepipe wire, and we had to buy up all the stovepipe wire in Brantford to make our line long enough. We did not trouble to put up posts, but tacked the wire to the fence. The communication that took place over this first telephone wire was not a conversation, but a monologue, as we had the transmitter only at one end and the receiver at the other.

"In this way the first message was sent over the telephone, and I have been told that Brantford calls itself the 'Telephone City' ever since. That was in 1875. A short time afterward C. Williams, of Boston, strung a telephone wire from his office in Boston to his house in Cambridgeport, a distance of two miles. This was the first telephone wire to be permanently erected.

"Since those small beginnings, what amazing progress has been made! Do you know that there are nearly 2,000,000 miles of telephone wires in the U.S. alone? If these wires were fastened together they would encircle the earth 81 times. The total number of telephone calls in this country last year was 1,820,000,000. At the rate of 1c. per call this

would amount to enough pennies to form a double row around the globe, and there would be enough left over to make three rows across the Atlantic. And all this has been accomplished in a single generation.

"I have recently been travelling through Norway and Sweden, and I was surprised to note the wonderful progress made by the telephone in those countries. In proportion

to the population there are more telephones in Norway and Sweden than in any other country, even in America.

"The next great step in the improvement of the telephone will be wireless telephony. This is not an inventor's dream. It has already been done across short distances. In the immediate future it will be made practical for social and commercial purposes."

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