

APPENDIX No. 1

No. 102.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
OWEN SOUND, ONT., June 3, 1905.Sir WILLIAM MULOCK,
Chairman of the Select Committee on Telephone Systems,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ont.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of May 29, in reference to the telephone systems in our town, I might say that our ratepayers in a body are in favour of government control of the telephone systems. The Bell Company have about 350 subscribers in this town and the merchant pays \$25 per year, and if he also puts one in his residence it costs him \$20, but otherwise the rate is \$25.

I do not think the people complain so much about the price, although they would be quite willing to have them cheaper, but what they do complain about the Bell Company is them having the power to dig up our beautiful streets and boulevards, just when and where they choose, after all the trouble and expense we have gone to in beautifying our town.

Although I say it myself, we have the cleanest, finest and most beautiful streets of any town in Canada, and just as we have them completed these people come along and dig up wherever they choose, and it seems according to their franchise they have the power to do so. Last year we threatened to call out the firemen and turn the hose on them, but we found out we would only be getting into trouble by so doing.

Hoping this information will be of value to you,

I remain yours faithfully,

MATT. DUNCAN,
Mayor.

No. 103.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
OTTAWA, June 8, 1905.Hon. Sir WILLIAM MULOCK,
Chairman, Telephone Committee,

SIR,—In response to your communication regarding the telephone facilities in county which I represent, I beg to say that Mr. J. E. Valois, Mayor of Lachute, writes me as follows:—

'The service gives satisfaction, but the rate charged, namely: \$20 per year which is paid for telephone service within our corporation limits, is too high considering the extent of business we do in our town. We have to pay, moreover, according to distance, the regular rates charged by the company when connections are made with out-of-town 'phones.'

I have also a letter from Mr. Matthew J. Strong, Mayor of Mille Isles, in which he says:

'We have no improvements to suggest regarding our telephone service because we have not any. If you could induce the Bell Telephone Company to extend their line from St. Jerome to Mille Isles we would consider it a great favour.'

It certainly would be a great benefit to counties like Argenteuil if more telephone lines were built through the farming sections and there seems to be no reason why such lines would not pay a reasonable rate on the capital invested.

Respectfully yours,

GEORGE H. PERLEY.