

Following is an excerpt from Ohio statutes:—

Penalty for Unlawfully Interfering with Telegraphic and Telephonic Messages, &c.

Sec. 3467a. Whosoever shall wilfully and maliciously * * * obstruct or delay by any means or contrivance whatsoever the sending, conveyance or delivering in this state of any message or communication by or through any telegraph or telephone line, cable or wire under the control of any telegraph or telephone company doing business in this state; or who shall wilfully or maliciously destroy, disconnect, displace, cut, tap, ground, or make any connection with or in any way wilfully or maliciously interfere with any of the poles, cables or wires legally erected, put up or strung, * * * shall be deemed guilty of felony, and fined or imprisoned, or both.

L. M. KRANER,
General Manager.

J.—*Home Telephone Co., Ohio.*—Surplus used in strengthening plant. We have a Globe automatic switchboard at one of our sub-exchanges which has cost us about \$25 for each subscriber's station complete with switch at central. We have only eight or ten subscribers on it, but it has been in use four years and is giving good service.

For description of our country lines, see letter No. 88, page 98.

K.—*Painsville Telephone Co., Ohio.*—We believe in getting all rural 'phones we can; in fact the rural 'phones hold the city 'phones. We require our rural subscribers to sign a contract not limiting the number of telephones on the same line. We, however, try not to exceed nine telephones per line. We build about six miles in each direction to meet rural subscribers.

L.—*Vermilion Telephone Co., Ohio.*—We consider rural service of great importance, and expect to develop our territory fully. As yet it has not been very profitable, as cost of installation, maintenance and operation per 'phone is largely in excess of that for village service.

M.—*Piqua Home Telephone Co., Ohio.*—All our local toll lines connect with the local lines owned by other independent companies. Each company takes what business they originate. We also connect with the United States Telephone Company's long distance lines, and through them with other states. For handling this business we get 25 per cent of all business sent and nothing for business received.

N.—*Bainbridge Telephone Co., Ohio.*—Our company is one of six constituent companies comprising the Geauga County, Ohio, Telephone Association, which was probably the first rural system of any magnitude in the United States, and has been patterned after extensively throughout the entire country. Subscribers in my company have the free use of entire association system, which comprises all of Geauga county and a part of Cuyahoga, Portage and Summit, about two thousand 'phones.

O.—*Greenfield Mutual Telephone Co., Ohio.*—At the expiration of six years we paid a stock dividend of 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. Expect to pay 10 per cent per annum in the future. At the expiration of six years we charged a lump sum of \$4,000 to depreciation, and have made liberal charges for repairs and maintenance. The company is organized under the laws of the state of Ohio, and its stockholders consist wholly of our own citizens. This fact conduces to better service than was furnished by the Bell Company.

P.—*Auglaize Telephone Co., Ohio.*—On rural lines we put nine subscribers on each line. Our rural lines are certainly a good proposition. We have an unlimited demand for telephones in the country, and think that any company forming now makes a great mistake if they do not make provision for taking care of the country near the central office.