

The National Independent Telephone Association

The International Telephone Association held its final Convention at Chicago, Ill., last month, as it died then, and is succeeded by the National Independent Telephone Association.

As among its objects are "to improve telephone service and facilities in the United States", and to secure "to the people of the United States" the benefits of telephone competition, it has been narrowed from an "International" to a purely "National" organization.

So Independent Companies in Canada must look to the Canadian Association for that mutual help which is absolutely necessary, though we feel confident that the U. S. Association will exhibit the most kindly and fraternal feelings, and will not hesitate to put those feelings into active operation should occasion arise. Further, we are sure that every one in Canada who sympathises with Independent Telephony will sincerely wish increased prosperity and success to the altered Association across the line.

The telephone situation in Canada is so entirely different, that it is only reasonable that this departure should have been made. While in the United States there is only the Bell and the Independent Companies, here in Canada we have not only these two, but also Government and Municipal ownership, and Government support of Independent Companies; and — even more valuable still — we have a Railway Commission whose authority extends to telephone systems, and which has been the most potent factor in securing justice for the public.

The beneficent situation in Canada is owing very largely to the splendid fight for public rights put up by the Union of Canadian Municipalities. The fact that the Bell Company to-day cannot enter upon any road and street in the Dominion without the consent of the municipality, in spite of the blanket powers of its charter, is a victory for the U. C. M. that is not fully understood or valued.

In his remarks, Secretary J. B. Ware referred to the statistics compiled by the U. S. Government up to the end of last year, which show a total of 22,971 separate companies of which 35 are Bell, and the balance Independent, but pointed out that this did not give the real number, as enquiry in different states had shown many companies had not sent in any returns. For this reason it is fair to think that the statement that there are more Bell telephones than Independent ones, may not be correct, but that the opposite is really the case. For instance, in the six central States there are 80,000 more exclusively Independent phones, than Bell added to the Independent that connect with the Bell, and this is the more remarkable as Chicago, Milwaukee and Cincinnati have no Independent phones. A list presented shows that of a total of 6,118,578 phones in the United States, not more than 2,149,635 were absolutely independent of the Bell.

Telephone Merger

A despatch from Washington, D. C., states that the Department of Justice is making full investigation into the combination of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. with the Western Union Telegraph Co. It is stated that records on file in the Department show the existence of a monster trust operating in conjunction with the General Electric Co. and the Westinghouse Electric Co. Further that these companies form part of the gigantic "water-power trust".

About a third of the Kellogg sales force recently spent a day inspecting the lately finished addition to the cabinet-making factory. This new structure is a handsome brick building, 60 by 200 feet, well lighted and completely equipped.

Besides the immense new glue machine and apparatus for handling the rough lumber there are 22 separate machines for the producing of telephone cabinet parts. Some of the machines are lathes; belted sanders; planing machines; the glue machines; and receiving room.

The great quantity of rough lumber, partly finished stock and assembled boxes that are in the factory at this time is evidence of the amount of work going through the factory daily.

The majority of the machine equipment is individual drive, and some of the more important apparatus is a belt sander, drill press, band-saw, dovetail machine, box slotter, planer, cabinet surfacer, under-cut planer, exhaust fans, glue machine, 4-sided moulder, buzz planer and swing saws; also spindle shapers, drill presses, carver and moulder, cut-off saw.

Among those present on the inspection tour were: Messrs. L. D. Kellogg, J. B. Edwards, J. C. Kelsey, C. S. Winston, W. R. Hind, A. S. Hallstrom, A. D. Carter, G. A. Joy, G. H. Crandall, H. N. Faris, L. R. Foote, F. C. King, E. G. Lawrence, O. Morsman, J. C. Murray, R. W. Pillars, A. E. Weber and W. R. Boze.

Another Quick Switchboard Order

A fire at Bass, Michigan, destroyed the switchboard of the Bass Telephone Company. The Kellogg Switchboard & Supply Co., Chicago, Ill., received the order at 10.35 Friday, November 26th, and shipped the board complete on the first train, Saturday, for Bass, which left at 10.30 a. m. Prompt service and shipments are important features of the Kellogg Switchboard & Supply Co.'s sales service for operating companies.

Patronize "Made in Canada" Goods

The Canada Wire Goods Mfg. Co. are illustrating in this month's issue one of their standard double Cells, lattice steel bar construction. Although this concern has only been specializing in jail and prison construction for some two years, they have developed a very extensive department covering all classes of prison work. Their Cells are well and favorably known from coast to coast. Their patented instantaneous spring lock and lever locking devices are meeting with great favor and have been largely instrumental in securing them some very nice business. They are in a position to quote on any class of prison construction, viz. solid plate, round bar lattice and Hexagon steel bar construction. Any business intrusted to this Firm will be carried out in a thorough workmanship manner.

In addition to prison construction, they are manufacturing all grades of Wire Cloth in steel, brass and copper. Very recently they equipped an Eastern Municipality with a number of special copper screens for water-works filtering purposes. They are well equipped to handle business of this nature, also Bank and Office Railings, Wire Guards, Gravel Screening, and in fact all lines of General Wire and Iron Work of every description. We bespeak for the Canada Wire Goods Mfg. Co. the support of all Canadian Municipalities interested in their lines of manufacture.