

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

Hove.—No answer has yet been received to the committee's application, but the committee are advised by Mr. Bennett that in the event of terms not being agreed with Hove for underground wayleaves, the Hove subscribers can be supplied by means of overhead wires erected upon poles placed on private premises.

Portslade.—Terms similar to those offered by the committee in the case of East Sussex have been agreed to, and the committee have agreed to provide an exchange so situate with regard to the Portslade urban district that subscribers in that district shall not be liable to the extra mileage charges which the corporation are entitled to make in the case of subscribers situate more than one mile from the nearest exchange.

Southwick.—Terms similar to those arranged by the committee in the case of Portslade have been offered, but the agreement has not yet been settled.

New Shoreham.—Terms similar to those offered by the committee in the case of East Sussex have been arranged, subject to the further condition that the council shall establish and maintain an exchange and call office at New Shoreham.

Burgess Hill.—The same terms have been offered to Burgess Hill as in the case of East Sussex, but no reply has been received. Unless these terms are accepted, the committee would recommend that Burgess Hill be excluded from the operation of the scheme.

The committee think that, though the agreements with several of the local authorities are not yet completed, the negotiations are sufficiently advanced to justify the council in proceeding with the installation of the exchange, as they understand from Mr. Bennett that, in the event of any local authority unreasonably refusing to grant wayleave rights, the Postmaster General would authorize the exclusion of that area from the scheme.

The canvass which the council have caused to be carried out has resulted in the obtaining of 662 applications for telephones on the municipal exchange (including 13 in respect of corporation departments), and the committee think that it is advisable that steps should now be taken for carrying out the installation of the exchange in accordance with the scheme and estimate prepared by Mr. Bennett and approved by the council on the 18th April last.

They therefore recommend that application be made to the local government board for sanction to the loan of £45,000 for the period of 25 years, in accordance with the resolution of the council of the 18th April last.

Also that advertisements be published inviting tenders for the performance of the work in accordance with specifications now being prepared by Mr. Bennett, the execution of the work to be subject to the sanction of the local government board to the loan being obtained.

On behalf of the committee,

HERBERT CARDEN,
Chairman.

10th December, 1901.

NOTE.—The members of the committee present at the meeting at which the foregoing report was agreed upon, were: The Mayor, Alderman Buckwell, and Councilors Burberry, Carden, Galliers, Jarvis and Lintott.

No. 227e.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIGHTON.

REPORT OF THE TELEPHONES COMMITTEE.

In accordance with the promise given to the council, the telephones committee beg to present the following report with reference to the present position of the telephone undertaking :—