

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

thought that if the prosperous communities of western Michigan are going to require and use telephones for every eight or ten of the population—in several of them the figures justify this supposition—one might almost call it a prophecy, then the 20,000 telephones in the immediate system of the Citizens' Company will ere long be succeeded by exchanges with larger figures than above given, and preparations accordingly will have to be made by the company. And these facts show why more money has been needed and why sales of stock must continue.

The growth of your long-distance business during the same time has been even greater relatively. The long-distance lines have been increased by purchase and construction, almost wholly in the latter manner, by about 25 per cent, as there were added during the year 236½ miles of poles, 477 miles of copper circuits, and 78 miles of iron circuits, so that the long-distance system owned by the Citizens' Telephone Company on July 1 was:—

One thousand three hundred and fifty-two miles of poles.

One thousand nine hundred and forty-eight miles of copper circuits.

One thousand and sixty miles of iron circuits.

This makes a total of 3,008 miles of long-distance circuits, or 6,016 miles of wire used on such lines. You will note that, as in the more recent past, the growth in your long-distance system has been very much larger in copper circuits than in iron; iron for means of construction in long-distance lines is a thing of the past so far as the Citizens' Telephone Company is concerned; and the copper wire used is never smaller than No. 10 guage. In this increase, facilities for long-distance service for your company have been greatly improved. Two new pairs of copper wire between this city and Lansing, one of which is a through circuit with no stations using it between this city and Lansing, have been put into commission during the year. This through circuit greatly facilitates the interchange of business between the western part of the state and the capital and points east thereof. A new copper line from Hastings to Battle Creek has been completed, providing thus a new line to Jackson, much improving the service to Battle Creek, Marshall, Jackson, Ann Arbor, Adrian, Toledo and Ohio and Indiana points; and a new copper circuit has been built from Battle Creek to Athens, increasing the facilities for southern Michigan and northern Indiana points. South from Athens the Southern Michigan Telephone Company, incited by the construction of copper to that point, is preparing to install as much copper as may be necessary to take care of the through business from your system to points in southern Michigan and northern Indiana. New long-distance lines locally have been built in southern Barry county, improving the service and reaching stations not heretofore served in that region. New lines have also been built out of Cadillac to Boon, Harrietta, Sherman and to Lake City. All of these lines have been very busy from the moment service was established over them and have proved very popular with the patrons. Still another copper circuit is building from this city north to Cadillac, and will relieve the congested condition of long-distance service in that region.