

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

than \$3,500 per annum. The expense is small, they employ a local manager, one girl, and one man as inspector, or what they call their trouble man. He takes care of the company's lines, and puts in new 'phones that may be required in his district. He has full charge of all the 'phones from Morris to La-Salle and Gretna, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and Rose-Bank, Emerson and Ridgeville, on the Canadian Northern Railway, a total mileage of some one hundred miles. Thus you see the cost for maintenance is very small. Should there be any extra work, such as erecting poles, &c., they have an extra man to do it, but this hundred miles, at the present time, is solely under the charge of the trouble man. Now, what our council think is this: that if the 'phone system could be taken over by the Dominion government and managed similar to the Customs and Post Office Departments, we believe the present rates could be reduced one-half, and that it then would be a paying revenue to the government, perhaps better than from any other department.

Yours respectfully,

D. M. URE,
Mayor.

SYNOPSIS OF LETTERS RECEIVED FROM MUNICIPALITIES.

No. 167.

Township of Draper, Ont.—No system in operation, council of opinion that telephone system in connection with post office would be a great convenience, but owing to the sparsely settled state of many townships does not consider municipalities could successfully establish and operate a system.

No. 168.

Municipality of Denbeigh, Abingfield and Ashby.—No railway, express, telegraph, or telephone facilities in this locality. Any one of these systems would be hailed with delight.

No. 169.

Municipality of Plum Coulee, Man.—'Bell' toll station only. Complain that service is slow. A customer may have to wait several hours to get the desired connection—there being only one line. Two wires could be fully employed.

No. 170.

Township of York, Ont.—'Bell' rates excessive. More residents would use telephones if rates were moderate. Council believes in government ownership of all long-distance lines within the Dominion.

No. 171.

Tarentorus Township, Algoma.—No telephone service here. 'Bell' line from Sault Ste. Marie to Thessalon passes through. Farmers asked for connection, but price demanded prohibitive.

No. 172.

Municipality of the County of Quebec, P.Q.—Secretary-treasurer writes, 'Bell' pay station, but no subscribers here. Charge to Quebec, 3½ miles, 10 cents for three minutes. Company quoted \$60 per year for telephone in writer's house. System gives satisfaction, but would be more telephones used if rates were lower.