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No. 265.

RICHMOND MUNICIPALITY.

A. B. DIXON, C.M.C.

EBURNE, B.C., July 13, 1905.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G.,
Postmaster General, Ottawa.

SIR,—In reply to yours of June 2, *re* inquiry into telephone systems in operation in this locality, I have the honour to submit the following:—

This locality is served by a branch of the system operated by the N. W. & B. I. Telephone Company, of Vancouver, B.C.

This company has two central offices, and have about twenty subscribers. The charge to subscribers is thirty-five dollars per year, which does not include long-distance charges.

The rates charged the public is 10 cents, with about one cent per mile added for long-distance messages.

The Richmond council would much prefer the government ownership of the telephone systems.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. B. DIXON,
C. M. C.

No. 266.

MUNICIPALITY OF MATSQUI.

ABBOTTSFORD, B.C., July 29, 1905.

The Hon. Sir WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G.,
Postmaster General, and Chairman of the Select Committee on
Telephone Systems, Ottawa.

HON. SIR,—I am directed by the Matsqui council, at its meeting held to-day, to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letter of June 2 *re* telephone systems existing in our locality.

I beg to say that our municipality is about ten miles long by about eight miles wide, and has just one telephone line, running through its centre, or nearly so, east and west, and in the whole length it has but one 'phone the public can use, one installed at the post office at Abbotsford (which is the Canadian Pacific Railway depot). Last year the charges were for short distances, ten cents; now the minimum price is 25 cents. This is considered exorbitant, and deters many from its use. Our council tried some time ago to better this state of affairs by asking the Bell Company to install a system to Mt. Lehman, which would be a great benefit to that part of the district, and upon inquiries the council was informed if the public would erect the poles the company would string the wire, but a guarantee of \$8 per month must be made, and all other expenses met. The public would readily have erected the poles if these unreasonable charges had not been made. The long-distance rates are also too high. It is very evident the company prefers a slow shilling to quick pennies, and the public will welcome the inauguration of another line that will remedy the present state of things. We maintain that where there is, as I remark, only one 'phone in existence in this ten miles there ought and would be a dozen if the charges were more within the reach of the public, and I am instructed to inform you that the council is in favour of government ownership and operation of main and local telephone service, seeing that private ownership in so many cases is so unsatisfactory.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your humble and obedient servant,

JOHN BALL,
Clerk.