

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

energy; our subscribers' circuits are of iron and copper metallic, and we have one mile of underground cable. Our rates are as follows : \$12 for four party line selective ringing telephones, and \$20 for main line residence telephones, \$18 for four party line selective ringing telephones for business, \$24 for two party line selective ringing telephones for business, and \$30 for main line telephones for business. Our rates for rural service are \$15 for four party lines. We pay a dividend of 6 per cent on our stock and 5 per cent interest on our bonds. We set aside 20 per cent of our gross receipts for depreciation, and use all of our surplus for new work. The Bell Telephone Company had 16 telephones here before competition, and they still have those for long-distance work. We pay our superintendent \$110 a month, our wire chief and trouble men \$70 and \$65 respectively, and our operators from \$18 to \$25 a month. Hoping this information will prove satisfactory,

We remain, yours very truly,

THE BLACK RIVER TELEGRAPH CO.

No. 58.

The following excerpt from the Indianapolis News, April 8, 1905, was received from the Citizens' Telephone Company, Columbus, Ind. :—

INTERESTING TELEPHONE INFORMATION.

What Happens when the People and not a Monopoly Control the Telephone Situation.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| The independent telephones of Indiana number | 166,255 |
| The annual exchange rentals for these telephones amount to | \$3,048,885 |
| The same number of telephones, at the rates charged by the monopoly, before the independent movement began, would cost the people of Indiana annually | 7,275,300 |

The independent telephones, therefore, save the people of Indiana to-day :

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Annually | \$4,226,415 |
| Quarterly | 1,056,603 |
| Monthly | 352,201 |
| Weekly | 88,050 |
| Daily | 12,578 |

Besides all this the independent movement has covered the field.

In the Reign of Monopoly there were only 7,000 telephones in the State of Indiana, or one for every 350 of population, and not one in the house of a farmer.

Now there are 166,255 independent telephones, or one for every 16 of population, and 30,000 of them in the houses of farmers.

The new Long-distance Telephone Company has, upon its own lines, within a radius of 50 miles of Indianapolis, 61,286 subscribers, who use no other than independent telephones.

The Indianapolis Telephone Company has 11,591 subscribers in Marion County. Of these, 9,905 use no other telephone.

During the quarter ending March 31, 1905, the company added new subscribers as follows :—

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| January | 353 |
| February | 362 |
| March | 345 |

A gain for the quarter of 1,060 subscribers.

A greater increase than for any corresponding period.