

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

ceeds.' (4.) A monopoly subsidized by government exists and we wish this state of affairs to cease so that competition and cheaper 'phones may be possible.

Yours very truly,

GEORGE F. DEWAR.

SUMMARY OF LETTERS RECEIVED.

No. 67.

From Dr. Ross, Union Telephone Company of New Brunswick, inclosing list of 42 questions which writers suggests should be submitted to the New Brunswick Telephone Company, bearing upon discrimination in rates, giving of free service and the refusal of the station agent at Florenceville to answer calls received over the Union Telephone Company's system.

No. 68.

Letter from Dr. Ross stating that his company have 46 subscribers who are not connected with the New Brunswick Company's exchange, instead of three, as reported by Senator Thompson.

No. 69.

From Mechanicsburg Telephone Company, Ohio, replying to questions and stating that they have 700 telephones and population of 5,500. Four hundred and fifty are rural subscribers at \$1 per month. Company earns 8 per cent dividend. Have 125 miles of toll lines carrying from two to twenty wires; ten farmers are connected on a line. The manager and one troubleman keep the line in good shape. The writer considers with good construction and instruments, two men could take care of 1,000 telephones nicely. Salary account for 1904, including operators, was \$2,688.

No. 70.

From Leaf River and Egan Mutual Telephone Company, replying to questions. The company has 71 telephones in a population of 1,000; 25 being farmers. Each subscriber is a shareholder, paying \$30, three subscribers to the mile required for rural lines. The subscriber pays 50 cents per month, 40 cents going to the central office and 10 cents held as a reserve fund. This nets \$85.20 per year, which, with \$120 toll receipts, makes a total of \$205.20 per annum to pay \$153.90 running expenses. Twenty-five cents extra per month gives subscribers free communication to all points in Ogle county and all the neighbouring counties may be reached for a toll of 15 cents.

No. 71.

From the Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Company, of Nashville, Tenn., stating that they operate 'Bell' 'phones exclusively in Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky and southern portions of Illinois and Indiana. Investment, \$15,000,000; outstanding capital, \$13,500,000. Have 130,000 'phones in population of 7,000,000. Company pays special attention to farmers' lines, and where farmers prefer to build their own lines, connect them at the corporation limits, giving them unlimited service to one exchange for \$2 per telephone per year.