

**THE ADVANTAGE OF LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONING.**

In an interview with Superintendent Mallett, of the Bell Telephone Company, by a representative of the *Post-Express*, of Rochester, N. Y., the advantages of the long distance service were very clearly and concisely put.

In response to a question on the subject, he said: "Business men are availing themselves of its advantages to carry on communication that could not be done by telegraph. They can discuss questions and negotiate as though they were face to face. The metallic circuit in use on the long distance line conveys the message perfectly. Where one has a city telephone with a metallic circuit he can get a message from New York or Boston in his own office. But with the ordinary ground circuit, one living here could send a message to New York that would be understood, but he would not be likely to receive a distinct one in return. A new line has been opened to Pittsburgh, and it is now being extended to Chicago. There is a comparatively greater demand for long distance service in New York, Philadelphia and Boston than elsewhere. The greater population at these points does not account for it altogether; the value of the system appears to have received quicker recognition there. In the city of Rochester there is one firm that pays \$75 to \$80 a month for its telephoning, and another paid over \$125 last month."



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**SPARKS.**

Mr. Frederic Nicholls recently delivered an address before the Toronto Architectural Guild on "Interior Wiring."

A line of poles on Rideau street, Ottawa, recently gave way under the weight imposed on the wires by a heavy fall of wet snow. For a short time the electrical business of the city was badly tangled up.

The National Electric Lighting and Tramway Company, of Victoria, B. C., has just purchased a 200 horse power Edison railway generator and two complete car equipments of 30 horse power each of the latest single reduction type.

The carbon manufactory of the Brooks Mfg. Co., at Peterborough, Ont., was recently damaged by fire to the extent of \$7,000 or \$8,000. Within a month the company hope to have the building reconstructed. Fortunately they have a sufficient stock of carbons on hand to supply the demand in the meantime.

The new boat now being built for the L. & N. R. Co. by the Albion Iron Works at Victoria is to be equipped with electricity. The boat is to be wired throughout by the Edison Company, and the fixtures are to be very handsome and durable, and to be finished by the new process of coating with aluminum, which is proof against the action of salt water or steam. When finished it will be one of the most perfect boats on the Pacific coast so far as the electrical arrangements are concerned. - *Vancouver News-Advertiser*.

A stock company has been organized in Chicago for the purpose of introducing an invention which it is claimed, will eventually do away with the telephone girl. The invention is described as follows - On the telephone shelf is a row of keys, five in all. They are marked units, tens, hundreds and thousands, the fifth key being the release key. The subscriber taps out the desired number on the key-board, which, registering on the machine automatically, connects the wire of the subscriber with that of the phone he desires to reach. The connection is made with the taps on the key-board. The subscriber wishing to place his transmitter and ear phone in connection with those of any other can do so by successively pressing the key which causes the circuit closer to move. If the man at telephone No. 288 wishes to place himself in connection with telephone No. 315 he will do so by pressing the key marked hundreds three times, then the key marked tens once and then the key marked units five times. His circuit closed is then in contact with wire terminal No. 315. The person at telephone No. 315 will take down his ear phone and the two are then able to converse with each other. The contrivance takes up a space of but 6x4x4 ins. The management of the Minneapolis telephone exchange does not believe the invention is of any practical use.

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