

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

scribers, believing that would be our limit, but our growth has been phenomenal and we now have over 800 telephones on farms, and over 600 in the city, and the end is not yet in sight. Where parties in the country wish a line built to them they are required to take out stock sufficient to cover cost of construction at the rate of \$100 per mile.

U. 1.—*The Home Telephone and Telegraph Co, Fort Wayne, Ind.*—This company does not own its own toll lines, but has contract relations with toll line companies.

The National Telephone and Telegraph Company, also a Fort Wayne organization, operates toll lines and exchanges, answering, therefore, query No. 12, will say that the cost per mile of single wire of toll line, No. 10 copper, approximates \$60, including the poles, cross arms, &c.

Query No. 14.—Miles of poles on toll lines, 35.

Query No. 15.—Miles of separate circuits, 500.

Query No. 21.—Rates charged for long-distance service—Within the first county, from 10 to 15 cents; to the next county, 10 cents additional; the next, 10 cents additional; after that 5c. for every additional county. Where no rates exist the rate is made not to exceed  $\frac{3}{8}$  cent per mile.

V. 1.—*Richmond Home Telephone Co., Ind.*—We have connection with all of the independent long distance lines in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Missouri, in fact all of the independent companies are connected together by toll lines, and divisions are made in proportion to mileage, after 25 per cent is deducted for the originating station.

We are giving good service and our patrons are well pleased with independent telephone service. This is proven by the fact that our exchange has grown from 800 subscribers to 2,125, and for the past three and a half years we have not had a solicitor in the field.

W. 1.—*Roberts Telephone and Electric Co., Texas.*—Our profits have been a little over \$3,000 per year for the last three years. No dividends prorated, as my family own all the stock. Our net profit showed on March 31, 1905, cr. \$9,592.87 for three years. We connect with a number of independent companies in all directions from us. Cannot name them all. We prorate the tolls. If over two lines only 20c. per line; if over three lines or more, usually 15c. per line.

X. 1.—*Big Valley Telephone Co., Cal.*—I started this line nearly three years since by getting sixteen persons to agree to pay their pro rata cost of switching the line, I furnishing the 'phones and materials at cost. The total cost was \$23.65 to each one. We now have 61 members and 20 miles of line. We have on a 10-mile part of this line 51 'phones and 6 extension bells. We have no trouble in ringing as we have 3,500 ohm. 'phones. I have since worked up the system till we now have lines on same co-operative plan all over our county, exchanging connections with each other without charge.

Y. 1.—*Saratoga, California, Mutual Telephone Co., Cal.*—The Sun Set (Bell) Company refused to furnish telephones to a community that wished a certain service, so twenty of us organized a company, unincorporated, intending to buy our own 'phones, but as soon as we commenced to string wires they made us such an advantageous offer that it was better to rent their 'phones, have them maintain the central office, give us free switching to the, say, 500 'phones of San Jose, than to be a local institution. We get all the advantages of the Bell telephone at about one-half the expense, because we own our lines.