

APPENDIX No. 1

No. 144.

## THE INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN.

JANESVILLE, Wis., June 2, 1905.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK,  
Chairman Select Committee on Telephone Systems,  
Ottawa.

DEAR SIR,—Your favour of the 22nd is at hand. We have in the state of Wisconsin some 300 independent telephone companies, having more than 40,000 subscribers. Over 10,000 of said subscribers are farmers. The construction of rural lines is being extended very rapidly. We find farmers to be our most stable subscribers. It was always the policy of the American Bell Telephone Company to discourage the building of rural lines. Now that company is making efforts in that direction, but the independent companies are so far ahead that their efforts are futile.

The statement made to your committee that American railway companies will admit but one telephone to their offices, is utterly false. Of the hundreds of independent telephone exchanges in the state of Wisconsin, I am sure there is not one but that has a telephone in the railway station. The Bell Telephone Company has 70 exchanges in the state, while the independents have nearly 300.

I shall be pleased to give you any further information you may desire and I suggest that you send a committee to Chicago to attend the National-Interstate telephone convention, to be held on June 20 and 21.

Yours truly,

RICHARD VALENTINE,  
*President.*

No. 145.

PEKIN, ILLINOIS, June 9, 1905.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G.,  
Ottawa, Canada.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your favour of May 22, 1905, and note your desire for information in this territory, regarding telephone conditions. More particularly regarding facilities in rural districts. Telephonic conditions will be viewed more particularly from a stand point of independents as we term those telephone interests which work in harmony and in opposition to the 'Bell' interests. The independent interests have made rapid strides in development, particularly in exchanges, and are rapidly building long-distance toll lines to connect in numerous exchanges, which now largely outnumber the Bell Company in numbers of exchanges and 'phones.

Rural lines have been well developed under two methods, first by companies owning exchanges, building out into rural districts, the rates charged for such service ranges from \$15 to \$20 per telephone per annum, on a basis of three 'phones per mile.

Another method which seems quite popular is for rural neighbourhoods to build their own lines to a city's limit and contract with the company owning the city exchange for city service, by the company picking up the rural line at the city limits and maintaining the line within the city limits for a rate equal to one-half the city's residence rate per 'phone per annum.

The railroads in our state, to the best of my knowledge, do not permit any telephone lines on their right of way, being prevented, even should they so desire, by previous contracts with the Western Union Telegraph Company, which prohibits competitive lines on the right of way.

We do experience trouble in getting railway companies in some instances to subscribe for telephones in their depots and offices, but we endeavour by such ex-