

The Bell Telephone Company of Canada

1896.

The Directors beg to submit their seventeenth Annual Report.

653 Subscribers have been added during the year, the total number of sets of instruments now earning rental being 29,462.

The Company now owns and operates 341 Exchanges and 275 Agencies.

176 miles of poles and 1,013 miles of wire have been added to the Long Distance system in 1896; of these 11 pole miles and 236 wire miles are in the Ontario Department, and 165 pole miles and 777 wire miles are in the Eastern Department.

The Long Distance Lines, now owned and operated by the Company, comprise 15,864 miles of wire on 6,060 miles of poles.

The new building in Montreal is nearly completed, and will be ready for occupancy in May.

The new building in Winnipeg was completed and occupied about Nov. 1st, and fully answers our expectations.

Under authority of the Shareholders, \$273,500 Bonds have been sold during the year, and the premium thereon, averaging $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., viz., \$19,491.25, has been carried to the Contingent Fund.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT MACKAY,
Vice-President.

CHAS. F. SISE,
President.

MONTREAL, February 25th, 1897.