

This statement is made up from a total of 71 completed returns received from the independent companies in the towns named.

In 45 towns, two business telephones can be had for the same amount, or less, than was formerly charged by the "Bell" for one. In two towns the increased cost is only \$1, and in one town, \$3, and in eight towns, \$6; one town \$10, in three towns (including Cleveland), \$12, and in one town \$18.

There has further been a very marked improvement in the service given, since the advent of competition, due to the fact that the increased demand for telephones has widened the field for inventors in the various branches of this art, to an extent which would not have been possible during the continuance of the monopoly. It is also obvious that the Independent telephone companies have provided employment for many thousands of people, who would otherwise have been forced into the ranks of other trades and professions, some of which are already overcrowded.

Taking all these facts into consideration, it is not to be wondered at that companies are now seeking to enter the field in Canada, in competition with the Bell Telephone Company, and it may here be stated that only by the encouragement of competition on a sound and legitimate basis, can Canadians hope to end the existing unsatisfactory state of the telephone service in the Dominion.

As a matter of business, between the people and the companies, let those of the latter, who will provide the best service at the lowest cost, be given every facility by the Government and the municipalities to fulfil the requirements of the public. The benefits which have resulted from competition in all parts of the world are such that Canadians cannot afford to allow the telephone service to remain any longer in the undisputed control of a monopoly, which has proved itself to be either unwilling or unable to satisfy the reasonable requirements of the people.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

It is, we believe, a fact not generally known, in this country at any rate, that Glasgow possesses the oldest technical school in the British Islands, for its incorporation as "Anderson's College" dates back to 1796, when it was founded under the will of John Anderson, professor of natural philosophy in Glasgow University, the close friend of Jas. Watt, who was a mathematical instrument maker under his direction. It was Anderson who first began in the University classes for employers and workmen. He aimed to direct his instruction "to the improvement of human nature and the progress of useful and elegant arts;" and his classes, from which has really sprung the modern and splendid technical college, were to be open to all ranks and to both sexes. It is evident, therefore, that Anderson was a broad-minded, as he must be admitted to have been a far-seeing man.

The fact that the corner-stone of a new and extensive building for the purposes of the college was opened with appropriate ceremonial, by King Edward VII. on the 14th May, gives especially interest to some notes upon this important seat of learning. Many distinguished men have been upon the staff of Anderson's and the Mechanics' Institution; Dr. Birkbeck, Dr. Andrew Ure, the author of the Dictionary of Arts and Manufactures; Thomas Graham, F.R.S., Professor Herschel, Professor G. Carey Foster. And among the students were some who became as famous as their teachers. For example, Dr. David Livingstone, Lord Playfair, Dr. James Young, the founder of the Scottish oil industry; Dr. Sheridan Muspratt; and among the members of the Mechanics' Institute were: Lord Kelvin, his brother, Professor James Thomson, and Sir James Watson.

The great extent of the institution will be apparent when we say that between 5,000 and 6,000 students passed through it last session. There were day students, 596; evening students, 4,394; pupils of Allan Glen's School, 661, making a total of 5,651. This is believed to be the largest number of

students attending any technical college in Great Britain. The day students include many from England and from India and the colonies, while the evening students are drawn from practically all the important manufacturing works within twenty-five miles of Glasgow. The staff of the college consists of ten professors, ten other heads of departments, thirty-eight assistant lecturers and demonstrators, and twenty trade instructors. Adding the thirty instructors in Allan Glen's School (affiliated), this makes a total of 130. There are evening and day classes, and the departments of instruction are: Mathematics and Physics; Chemistry; Metallurgy; Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, or Mining Engineering; Naval Architecture; Architecture.

From an illustrated pamphlet, issued by the governors of the college, we gather that the new buildings, to be placed on George street, and Montrose street, four stories and a basement in height, will be of red Dumfriesshire stone and light pressed brick, 346 feet in length, the style of architecture a free treatment of Italian classic. The buildings will, we are told, be the largest of their kind in Great Britain, covering nearly two acres, and their cost, exclusive of equipment, is placed at £210,000 sterling. A proof of the confident energy of the thirty governors of this college, the chairman of which body is Wm. Robertson Copland, C.E., and the public spirit of the Glasgow people is found in the circumstance that a committee of the governors raised, in two years, £186,000 for the erection of the new buildings, and that contracts have already been given for the erection of three-fourths of the whole pile. The corporation of Glasgow gave £10,000 to the fund; Andrew Carnegie, of the United States of America and elsewhere, gave £25,000; there are two other subscriptions of £25,000; two of £10,000 each—one of them from an anonymous donor—several of £5,000, £4,000, £2,000, and £1,000 each; many of £500; no less than seventy of £100 each. There must be many hundreds of subscribers altogether, but it is impossible to enumerate them because many are credited in aggregate to the different guilds which compose the "Trades' House" of Glasgow—for example, the Hammermen, the Weavers, the Skinners, the Dyers; then there is the Scottish Association of Master Bakers, the Building Trades' Exchange, etc., etc.

Glasgow has great cause for pride in the age and usefulness of her Technical College. It has done and is still doing a grand work in science and technology. There is no room to doubt, not only that all the money required to complete the splendid new buildings, but the money to equip them, will be forthcoming when required. For, is not the motto of the corporation "Let Glasgow Flourish." It is not conceivable that this splendid city of nearly a million people (mostly Scotch), will allow so worthy a hall of learning to want for anything in equipment or endowment that wealth and the modern spirit of research can supply.

MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE SWITCHBOARD.

The following is a description of the switchboard manufactured by the Hill Electric Switch Company, Limited, Montreal, for the Board of Trade Building, Montreal, now completed and in position. This board was designed and constructed entirely by the above company, the consulting engineer giving them a free hand to produce an artistic, as well as a thorough mechanical and electrical job, the result being a board that has pleased both the consulting engineer of the Board of Trade, R. P. Southard, and the resident engineer, A. York.

The board is designed to handle the output of three multi-polar C. G. E. generators of 500 amp. 110 volts, machines to run separately or in multiple. Provision is also made for current from the local lighting company, and all distributing switches are double throw, thus enabling current to be used from either sources at the same time, while a special single throw switch is connected to the D. C. bus bars, only, which controls a motor for freight elevator. As will be seen, there are three generator panels of solid blue Vermont marble, 3 feet wide, 7 feet long and 2 inches thick, each fitted with I. T. E. circuit breakers, three pole 600 amp.