

Isaac McMichael; directors, R. Fuller, A. S. Irving, W. C. Matthews, J. Hedley, H. N. Baird, Col. R. C. Clowry, Hon. Wm. McDougall; Secretary-Treasurer, George D. Perry; Auditor, A. C. McConnell. The official statement says that the reports, which have been actively circulated of late as to the absorption of the G.N.W. by the Western Union Telegraph Co., have been without the slightest foundation. There have been no negotiations whatever in this direction. The G.N.W. Telegraph Co. will remain, as heretofore, a strictly independent Canadian company, under Canadian management, continuing its exclusive connection with the Western Union Co., both companies being actively engaged in extending their lines and improving their local and international service. The relations between the companies and their respective managers have always been, and are still, perfectly harmonious and friendly.

The 20th anniversary of the commencement of operation by the C.P.R. telegraph department was celebrated Sept. 1, and the Manitoba Free Press, in referring to the event, said: Very few of the original operators are with the company after this lapse of time, but B. S. Jenkins, who was first superintendent, and to whom the onerous task of construction and development was entrusted, is still at the head of the Western lines he has built. Mr. Jenkins' appointment was due to the influence of Sir William Van Horne; at that time he was the youngest superintendent on the continent of America. Mr. Jenkins' original appointment was as Superintendent of the western division; but four years ago he was appointed General Superintendent of western lines. The system at its inauguration extended from Port Arthur to Calgary, with branches to Emerson, Gretna, Manitou, Glenboro and Stonewall. There were almost 1,600 miles of poles and 2,800 miles of wires. In contrast to this, and as a proof of the manner in which the company has endeavored to keep pace with the rapid development of the western country, it may be stated that at the end of 1902 it had 3,700 miles of poles and over 15,000 miles of wire, in the same territory. Extensive additions are being made this year, following new lines of railway and providing increased wire facilities over existing lines. The pole mileage of the western division is now greater than that of the eastern division, while the wire mileage is about the same. Twenty years ago the Winnipeg office employed to men, two of them at night. To-day it has more than 100 in this department. To-day its system runs from Canso to the western coast of Vancouver Island, connecting with the Commercial Co.'s system at the former place, and with the All-British Pacific cable at the other. Twenty years ago almost the whole of the operating was done by the station agents, but at present the necessities of the business demand the appointment of increasing numbers of operators devoting the whole of their time to the telegraphic business of the company.

British Columbia Telephones, Limited.

The following report for the year ended June 30 was presented at the annual meeting at Huddersfield, Eng., Oct. 21. The expenditure for improvements and extensions during the year was £7,334. The purchase of the plant of the Columbia Telephone and Telegraph Co. involved a further expenditure of £7,668. A new switchboard is being installed in the Victoria exchange on the central energy system. This will necessitate the purchase of new instruments for all subscribers there, involving a total expenditure of, at least, £15,000. At the last session of the Provincial Legislature an act enabling the Company to lay a cable connecting the mainland and Vancouver island was obtained; the

cost of the cable and land lines necessary will be, it is estimated, about £35,000. Owing to the heavy but necessary expenditure above mentioned, and that contemplated, the directors of the subsidiary companies have decided to carry forward the whole of the balances standing to the credit of their respective profit and loss accounts. The directors, therefore, regret that they are unable to pay any dividend on the ordinary shares. At the meeting a scheme for the reorganization of the Company, transferring the head office to British Columbia and increasing the debenture issue, will be submitted for consideration. The balance from last year's account is £322 14s. 2d. The directors have transferred from reserve fund £4,500, making a total of £4,822 14s. 2d., out of which have been paid: Expenses of English office, £146 4s.; income tax, £376 3s. 8d.; bank interest and charges, £164 13s. 3d.; interest on debenture stock to June 30, 1903, £1,270 19s. 6d.; dividend on preference shares to June 30, 1903, £1,694 12s. 8d.; total, £3,652 13s. 1d., leaving a balance to provide for directors' remuneration and to carry forward to next year's account of £1,170 1s. 1d. W. E. Wimpenny retires from the directorate by rotation.

The balance sheet shows the capital and liabilities of the Company to be £112,926 10s. 6d. The assets are shares in the Victoria and Esquimalt Telephone Co. and the New Westminster and Burrard Inlet Telephone Co., which include the shares in subsidiary companies, £88,380 3s.; profits from and amounts owing by subsidiary companies, £24,498 4s. 6d.; cash in bank, £48 3s. The profits earned by subsidiary companies for the year ended June 30 and not distributed were £12,686 17s. 8d. The directors for the past year were Dr. J. M. Lefevre, chairman; W. E. Wimpenny, W. Farrell.

General Telephone Matters.

The Bell Telephone Co. is putting up a local telephone system at Emerson, Man.

The Bell Telephone Co. has opened its long distance line between Sault Ste. Marie and Thessalon, Ont.

The Bell Telephone Co. is laying conduits in Sherbrooke, Que., preparatory to placing its wires underground.

The Vernon and Nelson Telephone Co. is negotiating with the Phoenix, B.C., city council for permission to erect additional lines in the city.

The Hamilton, Grimsby and Beamsville Electric Ry. Co. has installed new telephones on its system between Hamilton and Beamsville, Ont.

The Bell Telephone Co. has completed the installation of an office telephone system at the works of the Stovel Co., on McDermot, King and Arthur streets, Winnipeg.

F. C. Paterson, Manager of the Bell Telephone Co. for the Northwest Department, has purchased a house in Winnipeg, and has removed his family there from Brandon, Man.

C. F. Phillips of Baltimore, Md., who was consulted by the Montreal city council relative to the construction of a conduit system in that city, has presented a report and plans to the council.

The Citizens' Telephone and Electric Co. of Rat Portage (Ltd.), having transferred its lines, franchises, etc., to the Rat Portage, Ont., town council, has wound up its affairs in liquidation.

The Edmonton Telephone Co. is negotiating with the Edmonton, Alta., city council for a franchise. The council is desirous of adding a clause authorizing the construction of a municipal system.

The municipal telephone plant at Port Arthur and Fort William, Ont., is reported to be

giving good service. An additional section to the switchboard at the Port Arthur exchange is being installed.

The Bell Telephone Co. is constructing a long distance line between Cardston and Edmonton, Alta., along the line of the Calgary and Edmonton Ry. The company is negotiating with the Edmonton city council for an entrance there.

The Victoria Telephone Co., Victoria, B.C., is fitting up its new office and exchange on the upper floors of the Bank of Montreal building, and intends moving there by the end of the year. A new central energy switchboard is being installed in the new exchange.

Rapid progress is being made with the construction of the addition to the Bell Telephone Co.'s building in Toronto. The enlarged main exchange will be double the size of the present one, and is being fitted up on the most modern lines. It is expected that it will be completed by the beginning of 1904.

The telephone committee of the Ottawa city council has recommended the granting of a five years' franchise to the Bell Telephone Co., at \$45 a year for business houses, \$20 a year for private houses, and the payment of \$1,500 a year to the city treasurer, together with 40 free instruments for civic use.

The Humber Power and Light Co. recently made application to the Toronto Junction town council for a franchise, and it was resolved, as a basis of the general privilege granted, that the company might charge \$6 a year and 1 cent per call up to a maximum of \$15 a year for private houses, and \$25 for stores, until such time as the company may be able to connect with Toronto, when the maximum may be \$20 for houses and \$40 for stores. The privilege applies to a radius of 15 miles around the town.

The Nova Scotia Telephone Co. has extended its conduit system in Halifax during the year one mile, and has put in two miles of cable, making in all about 2½ miles of conduit work completed. It has repaired about 150 miles of long distance line in various parts of the province. It has strung additional wires on its long distance lines between Halifax and Windsor, Chester and Lunenburg, Halifax and Shubenacadie, Halifax and New Glasgow, Truro and Acadia Mines; and is also putting up a new line from Antigonish to the Strait of Canso.

The Eastern Telephone Co. has completed the reconstruction of its line in Sydney, N.S., and has put in about 2,000 ft. of conduit work to accommodate its increasing business. It has also put in about 700 ft. of cable. At Glace Bay it has put in a metallic system, and has completed its exchange at Sydney Mines. It is putting up a line from Sydney to Hawkesbury, via Grand Narrows and Orangedale, and expects to have the line completed in Dec. The E.T. Co. has acquired the Inverness and Victoria Telephone Co., and the Union Telephone Co. The Inverness and Victoria Telephone Co. had a line from North Sydney to Whycocomagh, and the Union Telephone Co. from Whycocomagh to Hawkesbury and Arichat. A considerable portion of these lines will be abandoned, especially between Orangedale and Hawkesbury, and the company will rebuild a portion of the old line between North Sydney and Orangedale. It is also about to build another line from Hawkesbury to Port Hood, running along the railway line of the Inverness Ry. and Coal Co.

The New Brunswick Telephone Co. has the following exchanges:—St. John, in the Company's own new building, equipped with central energy system, about 2,000 subscribers; Fredericton, about 400 subscribers; Moncton, about 300 subscribers; Woodstock and St. Stephen, about 150 subscribers each; St. Andrews, Sussex, Dorchester, Shediac, and