

APPENDIX No. 1

The rates charged by Chicoutimi Company are \$15 per year in Chicoutimi town, plus extra charges for calls outside of the town, and in other places \$12.50 without any extras.

This company controls about 150 boxes in the town and the different parishes in the surrounding of Chicoutimi town.

On account of misunderstanding on the rates between this company and the Co-operative system there is no communication at all between the two companies; railway companies allow every company access to their stations.

I am president of the Co-operative system since its organization.

My experience in telephone business is that in rural places, to make it popular, rates ought to be very low; and those generally asked by all speculative companies are exhorbitant.

I believe that the government general management will be a first-class policy, and if it is not possible now all the long-distance lines should be in the government hands, giving to any local company access to these at the same charge; delivering so the public of the hard monopoly now exercised by some important firms.

I inclose a map explaining the exact position in my district.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Yours truly,

JOS. GIRARD.

No. 158.

MINK COVE, DIGBY COUNTY, N.S.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK,

Ottawa, Ont.

I received your letter and papers of inquiry concerning telephone systems. The Westport and Digby telephone line, I now represent, was organized by a company in 1888, stock issued \$2,000. The company ran the line 15 years. The government laid two cables, one across Grand Passage, the other across Petite Passage. The one at Petite Passage was carried away several times, vessels dragging down upon it, catching it with their anchors and cutting it away. The government at last refused, or at least did not put another down. It remained without a cable for a long while; the company ran heavily in debt and they sold out to me 'personally.' I repaired the line and put a new cable down; the line then was forty miles iron wire, from Digby to Westport. I also ran an extra wire of copper from Sandy Cove to Westport, a distance of 20 miles, exclusive of the two passages which were cabled with a one-core cable—that made half the distance from Digby to Westport copper. The other 20 miles of iron wire, I connected with by-lines for business purposes. I do about all the work myself excepting the repairing of instruments, which I send away to manufacturers. The poles I furnish (nearly) all myself. Other material I buy mostly in Montreal.

The system operates in Digby county. The population of the territory served is 5,000, and total number of telephones in operation 40, of which 14 are direct one-station lines. The number of residence telephones is 14, business 12. The system is magneto, the central office equipment being manufactured by the Fisk, Newhall Telephone Manufacturing Company, of Chicago, Ill., and the subscribers' telephones by the 'Bell' Company, Couch & Seeley, Boston, and John Starr & Co., Halifax. The rates charged per annum are, business \$15, residence \$10. The system interchanges service with the Valley Telephone Company, the Yarmouth Amalgamated Telephone Company, and the Western Union Telegraph Company.