

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

The National Telephone Company has 2,061 telephones, 724 party lines. Before competition they had about 1,100 telephones, and no party lines.

Municipal subscribers.—No connection locally with 'National' Company's subscribers, but they connect with 'National' in other towns through the post office trunk lines. A terminal fee is charged on each call varying from 3d. to 6d., according to the amount of trunk fee.

Four hundred and seventy-five subscribers have the telephone of both systems.

Accounts for long-distance charges are rendered monthly by post and payment is received by post.

The system is central battery calling and clearing. The subscriber calls the exchange by putting a temporary earth on one leg of the line, thus dropping the calling indicator, on replacing the telephone on the cradle the temporary earth is again put on, thus dropping the clearing indicator.