

inefficient." As a result of this, A. R. Bennett, the engineer of the municipal system, issued enquiry cards on the subject to all subscribers having the telephones of both systems, and the following is a summary of the replies received:

In favor of municipal service.....	398
In favor of "company's" service.....	5
No difference .....	12
Satisfied with municipal, but expressed no opinion about company.....	28
Uncertain .....	4
Total ... ..	447

Eighty-four of the 398 emphasized their verdict by such remarks as "By far," "Most decidedly," "They cannot be compared," "Municipal the only efficient and trustworthy one," "Most emphatically," "Without hesitation," "By a very long way," "Unquestionably," "Without doubt," "Absolutely the very best," etc.

The Hull municipal exchange will be in operation very shortly. The rates are: Unlimited service, \$30.68 per annum; second and subsequent connections of the same firm, \$28; measured service, \$14.61 and two cents per outgoing call. There are over one thousand subscribers, and additional contracts are coming in rapidly. Practically the whole of the members of two of the principal industries of the port have signed municipal telephone contracts.

Municipal telephony in Great Britain has evidently come to stay, and the results up to date will make it exceedingly difficult for its opponents to produce arguments sufficiently convincing to stem the tide in its favor.



—A special correspondent of the Canadian Engineer writes of a trip to Winnipeg, and is enthusiastic as to the prospects of the Canadian West. Winnipeg will probably be more to the trade of the Canadian West than Chicago has been to the trade of the American West, and if the evolution of the Canadian Chicago is unfolded on analogous lines, the industrial history of Winnipeg should now begin to develop. The commercial expansion of Winnipeg in common with most towns of Manitoba and the North-West is proceeding with great rapidity, and if manufacturers of eastern Canada wish to acquire and hold their due share of this trade they should get into closer touch with the West than some of them seem to do. A great deal of business that might be done with eastern Canadian firms is being grasped by manufacturers in the mid-western States. The industrial east should be linked with the commercial west, and if this is not accomplished it is because many firms in the older Provinces are not aware of what is transpiring in the great western plains of their own country. Every manufacturer of Ontario and the Provinces to the east who aims at doing a trade beyond the confines of his own Province should take a trip to the West and see for himself how substantial is the progress that has been made there in the last ten years.

—It is satisfactory to learn from South African Mines, the leading mining and industrial journal of South Africa, that the experiment of introducing Chinese labor into the Transvaal mines promises to be a practical success. The mine managers have closely watched the work of the first instalment of Chinese laborers, and reports coming to the President of the Chamber of Mines enable him to state that the raw Chinaman is a distinct improvement upon the raw Kaffir. By the end of September there will be 11,000 imported laborers in the mines of Johannesburg, and our contemporary confirms the predictions of the mining authorities that the Transvaal is again on the high road to prosperity. An assurance of this may be taken from the fact that the output of the gold, diamond, coal and silver mines of the colony for the first half of 1904 makes a total of £8,672,627 sterling, while the net profits in the same period are estimated at two and three-quarter million pounds sterling. This is encouraging news after the poor trade reports of the past year, and, as there is a large prospective market for Canadian machinery and manufactured goods in South Africa, exporters from this market will do well to give attention to these colonies. Our contemporary is of opinion that, other things being equal, a preference will be given to Canadian goods over foreign goods, but even without this friendly sentiment and the actual advantage now given to Canada under the South African preferential tariff there is a great future for Canadian products in that quarter of the world.



—In another part of this issue will be found the results of an investigation by a representative of this journal into the progress of acetylene gas lighting in Canada, instancing more particularly the case of North Bay, Ont. There appears to have been more progress in the wide-awake west than in eastern Canada in this field of enterprise. There is a prevailing opinion among those interested as operators of lighting plants that many more towns would be using acetylene if the price of calcium carbide were reduced. Theoretically, a pound of pure carbide makes five feet of gas, but in practice only about four feet is got from the average quality furnished, and adding freight to the cost of carbide the price will average \$72 to \$75 a ton. This makes the cost rather high to offer a very attractive field for investment in those towns in which acetylene would have to meet an established rival like coal gas or electricity. In a growing young village or town where no other public lighting has been introduced the advantages of acetylene over coal-gas or water-gas in several respects appear to be pretty clearly shown in our report. For cooking purposes coal-gas is cheaper, though strong claims are made for one or two new types of acetylene gas stoves now being put on the market. If these claims can be proved in practice, then the day is not far distant when acetylene will largely supersede coal-gas for lighting, and be a competitor also in cooking, provided that the price of carbide is reduced. In this development there will still be a keen competition between the two gases, for it will be admitted, in view of the value of the by-