shares at 8% per annum for 6 months to Dec. 31, 1901, £1,625 4s. 4d., leaving a balance of £8,002 8s. od. The directors recommend that this be appropriated as follows: To transfer to the reserve fund, £5,000; in payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares at 8% per annum free from tax, for the half-year ended June 30, 1902, £1,779 13s. 10d.; to provide for directors' remuneration and to carry forward to next year's account, £1,222 14s. 2d

The balance sheet shows the capital and liabilities of the Co. to be £122,727 os. 7d. The assets are shares in the Victoria & Esquimault Telephone Co. and the New Westminster & Burrard Inlet Telephone Co., which includes the shares in subsidiary companies, £88,380 3s., profits from and amounts

owing by subsidiary companies £34,346 178.7d.
The directors are in England: E. Gray, W.
E. Wimpenny, J. Wheatley; in Vancouver,
W. Farrell, Dr. J. M. Lefevre. The Construction Superintendent and Manager in B.C. is H. W. Kent.

### Municipal Telephones in Glasgow.

An account was recently given of the failure of the Corporation of Glasgow, Scotland, to make the tramways system pay. The figures and facts were supplied by a correspondent of "The London Times," a sufficient guarantee of their correctness. In the same article, this correspondent, who has been conducting a thorough examination into the municipalization of public utilities throughout Great Britain, treated of the but recently installed municipal telephone system. As far as its financial success goes it is not as fair an object for criticism as the tramways, which have been in operation for years, and have been exploited the world over as the most successful attempt at municipalization ever known. The telephones are a newer venture and the system has hardly had an opportunity of getting on its feet yet. Still, as far as it has gone the results are not cheering.

The principal reason why Glasgow went into the telephone business was the inefficiency of the service provided by the National Telephone Co. and its high cost. The National does not appear to have been as progressive as it might have been. But it was not solely responsible for the failure to install an up-to-date service. In 1896, with a desire to improve its service, it made an application to the Corporation for permission to put its wires underground. This permission was re-It was refused because the advocates fused. of the municipalization of the telephone service realized that if the National Co. was granted permission to place its wires underground, the establishment of a municipal service on a satisfactory financial basis would be a most precarious undertaking. The National Co., thus refused permission to bring its service up-to-date, was compelled to retain its costly system of overhead wires. A rearrangement of the service was attempted, and in effecting it with speed further compli-cations, which made the service even less satisfactory, were encountered.

In the meantime the Glasgow council partly responsible for this inefficiency, had spent £16,000 in securing the right to construct a municipal telephone service from Parliament. This it secured, but attached to it is the proviso that after December 31, 1913, the Postmaster-General may purchase at a fair market price "all such plant as is suitable for actual requirements." With only 13 years of operation assured, the Corporation entered upon an investment of £120,000. It proved insufficient, and during the first nine months nearly £200,000 was spent. while these fignres are interesting, the results of the first nine months' working are more so. A surplus of £398 7s. 10½d. is remore so. ported. But, strangely enough, no allowance

is made for depreciation, and the receipts of £28,171 13s. 5d. included £12,417 1s. 5d. for rentals paid but not yet earned, and £1,658 8s. 1½ for trunk and telegram fees collected on behalf of the Post-office, and which will have to be handed over less a small commis-The profit was merely a paper profit, and had, in view of the fact that the system was just getting under way, no right of existence at all. The Corporation rate represents a reduction of £4 15s. a year on the National rate. Included in the £5 rate are certain trunk privileges, and it is stated that in some instances the cost of this, which the Corporation has to meet, has entirely wiped out the subscription rate, so that the subscriber has been receiving his telephone at the cost of the citizens of Glasgow. In view of this it has already been suggested that the rate should be increased. The indications are that the telephone system will not be enumerated as a paying investment instead of being credited as claimed, with the saving of £25,000 a year to the ratepayer. This saving is, of course, computed by taking the number of National subscribers and multiplying it by the reduction in rates. But this saving has not, and will

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not, be effected for the simple reason that 3,000 of the odd 4,000 of the National's subscribers have been compelled to install both services. Consequently, instead of saving the ratepayers £25,000, the effect has been to add a burden of £15,000 to the telephone expense of 3,000 of them. Cities which have "enjoyed" the privilege of telephone competition will keenly recognize this effect.

Probably three-quarters of the population of Glasgow is not interested in telephones at all, and would not be if the rate was made half of what it now is. Yet if there is a loss they will be compelled to foot their share of it without having received any of the benefit .-

Montreal Gazette.

Steel Buildings

#### PURCHASING AGENTS' GUIDE.

(Continued from third page of Cover.)

Dominion Bridg o Co	Mantagal
Steel Plate	
Jas. W. Pyke & Co Steel Tyres	Montreal.
Jas. W. Pyke & Co	Mont eal,
Dominion Bridge Co	Montreal.
Switches	
Canada Switch and Spring Co Switch Lamps	
The Hiram L. Piper Co Switch Targets	Montreal,
Acton Burrows Co	Toronto,
Acton Burrows Co	Toronto.
Tobacco and Cigars The Hudson's Bay Company	
Toilet Paper The Hudson's Bay Company	
Tools	
Rice Lewis & Son	
Track Jacks James Cooper	Montreal.
James Cooper Duff Manufacturing Co W. H. C. Mussen & Co. A. O. Norton	Allegheny, Pa.
A. O. Norton	Coaticook, Que,
Track Tools	
Canada Switch and Spring Co. James Cooper Rice Lewis & Son. W. H. C. Mussen & Co.	
Rice Lewis & Son	Toronto
Tramway Equipment	
James Cooper	Montreal, Toronto,
Trucks (Electric Car)	
Baldwin Locomotive Works Canada Switch and Spring Co	Philadelphia, Pa.
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