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installed, aggregating 48,710 telephones, this being only a partial list. Cost of telephones and switches : 25 stations, \$40 per station; 50 to 100, \$36; 500 to 2,000, \$32.50; 2,000 to 5,000, \$35, f.o.b. Chicago. In exchanges over 100 storage batteries and charging machines are required at additional cost.

Edward C. Morris, Brown's Nurseries, Ontario.—Two years ago the community were desirous to have a rural system. The writer spoke to the 'Bell' manager, and obtaining no encouragement, proceeded to organize a company. In two months \$3,000 was subscribed. The Bell, hearing this, then offered to put in system at \$15 per 'phone per annum. Prior to this, tolls were charged everywhere. Finally the Bell proposition was accepted on condition that free communication was given to Welland. The district now has a first-class service, with nearly one hundred subscribers. Had the government controlled the long-distance wires the people would have preferred their own local system. The writer believes rural telephones a great convenience.

A. A. Bruneau, M.P.—Gives information regarding establishment of system at Sorel, Que., by Merchants' Telephone Co., Montreal, and failure of that company to carry out agreement to provide service between Sorel and Montreal by reason of the refusal of the Grand Trunk Railway to permit a cable to be carried across Victoria Bridge. The writer states he wrote the Grand Trunk Railway on the subject, their reply being that the Bell forbade them to grant this facility. The Merchants Company sold their Sorel interests to La Cie St. Laurent. Suggests that Hon. Jules Allard, Minister of Colonization, Quebec; the president, Mr. Courchesne, secretary-treasurer, and Mr. J. E. Beaubien, be summoned by the committee. Bell service at Sorel is excellent, but long-distance charges high.

The New Ottawa County Telephone Co.—Giving information regarding telephone system.

The Eastern Illinois Telephone Co.—Giving information regarding telephone system.

D. Hibner, Berlin, Ont.—Writer is a member of committee on the telephone question in county of Waterloo, of which Dr. Ochs is chairman. Expresses hope that long-distance lines will belong to government, and thinks would be well if whole system, particularly Bell, were in government's hands.

The T. and A. Selective Call Co., Geneseo, Ill.—Explains selective system, which enables subscribers on party lines to call the central office, and *vice versa*, without ringing other telephones on the same line, and to call other stations on the same line without attracting the attention of the operator of the central office. In communicating between stations on the same line, however, code signals are used, and all bells ring, as in the ordinary farmers' line system. Incloses a number of testimonials, among others one from the Kewaunee Home Telephone Co., Kewaunee, Ill., in which the manager states that upwards of forty telephones can be operated on one line successfully, and besides this advantage the system eliminates the much-abused practice of listening on the wire by parties not interested.

A. J. Vernier, Manager, the Eastern Illinois Independent Telephone Company, Kankarkee, Ill.—Stating that the writer is interested in several independent companies in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, all of which are a success and paying as much as 3 per cent quarterly. Believes the people of each county or groups of two or three counties should own and operate their own system, thereby getting the benefit of their own telephoning. By so doing, the service is much improved, and more service is provided for less money. Will be pleased to furnish any other information that we ask him.