

APPENDIX No. 1

(COPY.)

BOROUGH OF HOVE, TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, TOWN HALL,
HOVE, SUSSEX, 1st April, 1902.

Telephones.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by my council to inform you that, after full consideration, they are of opinion that it is undesirable that they should at present commit themselves to any scheme for telephones which will involve underground works.

Their present intention is to apply for parliamentary powers to lay ducts under the roadways for the purpose of telephone and other wires should they deem it desirable to take this course at any future time.

Yours faithfully,

H. ENDACOTT,
Town Clerk.

F. J. TILLSTONE, Esq.,
Town Clerk,
Town Hall, Brighton.

The committee have received from Mr. Bennett the following communication embodying the results of his experience as engineer to the Glasgow and Tunbridge Wells Municipal Exchanges.

(COPY.)

65 RENFIELD STREET, GLASGOW,
August 13, 1902.

The Telephone Committee of the Town Council of Brighton.

GENTLEMEN,—With regard to the position created by the refusal of the Local Government Board to sanction any expenditure in Hove, I am strongly of opinion that the circumstance does not warrant the abandonment of Brighton's telephone scheme.

The number of subscribers to be obtained in Hove must be but a small proportion of the total to be obtained in Brighton itself, without reckoning outlying places in the area. In any case, I believe that Hove could be telephoned overhead by means of private wayleaves in the same way as it is now telephoned overhead by the National Telephone Company. If it were found impossible to use the security of the Brighton rates for the purpose, I believe that contractors could be found who would erect the necessary plant on the security of subscriptions payable by Hove subscribers, which could be assigned to them for a certain period. The necessary expenditure in Hove would not exceed from £2,000 to £3,000, as the routes to Portsedale, Southwick and Shoreham have been arranged so as to avoid the Borough of Hove in any case. The post office could not object to this arrangement if the work were carried out in accordance with the post office specification, which of course would be arranged for.

I may state that in connection with the Glasgow corporation telephone enterprise a similar difficulty cropped up in the case of the Burgh of Clydebank, which refused to grant underground wayleaves in much the same manner as Hove has done. But the Glasgow corporation have telephoned Clydebank overhead, in defiance of the council of that burgh, and have secured a large measure of support amongst the Clydebank citizens.

Although the Glasgow corporation telephone system is not a year old, 6,184 subscribers had been connected up to the last Monday evening, while 1,530 orders remain on hand to be executed. From 6 to 12 new orders are received every day, so that an exchange of 20,000 is being looked to in the near future. This is in face of the keenest competition by the company, who have entirely reorganized their system and replaced their old and inefficient plant by the latest devices, and that altogether regardless of expense. They are also giving their subscribers facilities which at the date of the inquiry in 1897 were derided as impossible. In Tunbridge Wells when a corpora-