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No. 95.**ORANGE AND SUSSEX COUNTY INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION.**

NEWBURGH, N.Y., May 26, 1905.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK,
Postmaster General,
Ottawa, Canada.

DEAR SIR,—Your communication as chairman of Select Committee on Telephone Systems for Canada, has been received by us and in answer would say that in this section of the country, the companies have in no case experienced any difficulties from placing the independent telephones in railway companies' passenger and freight depots.

In a few instances these instruments have been placed at no charge to the railway companies, more of a convenience to the public, and in other cases the railroad companies pay the regular rates for them.

It has come to the writer's knowledge in some extremely few cases that railroad companies have made some objection to having the independent telephone placed in their offices, but this has been occasioned only by strong influence of the Bell Company through railroad under officials who were friendly with local Bell officials. The writer finds that in nearly all the railroad passenger and freight depots in this vicinity have both Bell and Independent Telephones, and in some cases the Independent only, this would apply to smaller towns and villages.

Yours truly,
GEO. G. OTIS.

No. 96.**DECATUR COUNTY INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANY.**

GREENSBURG, IND., May 26, 1905.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G.,
Postmaster General,
Ottawa, Ont.

DEAR SIR,—We have the honour to reply to your list of questions as fully as the information at hand will permit. Our system operates in Decatur County, Indiana, and have been in existence four years. The amount of stock issued is \$29,000, and we have a bonded indebtedness of \$27,000. The population of the territory served is 20,000, and total number of telephones in operation 1,435, of which 816 are rural subscribers and 620 are direct one station lines. The number of residence telephones is 1,282 and business 153. 210 subscribers have also the Bell telephone at the same address. The average cost, per subscriber, of the local plant is \$62.50, the lines being iron wire, metallic circuits. The construction is pole throughout. The system is central energy, the central office equipment and telephones being manufactured by the Stromberg-Carlson Manufacturing Company, Rochester, N.Y. The rates charged per annum are: stockholders, business, \$18; residence, \$9.60; non-stockholders, business, \$24; residence, \$15. The same rates, respectively, for rural. Six per cent interest is paid on bonds, and balance of profits are used in extending plant.

The system interchanges service with the New Long-Distance Telephone Company of Indiana, through which we are in communication with 141 telephone companies in the state of Illinois, 1,503 in Indiana, representing over 160,000 subscribers, 206 points in Illinois, 406 in Kentucky, 247 in Missouri and 2,552 in Ohio, for which privilege we receive 25 per cent of all tolls originating at this office or its sub-stations.

The number of 'Bell' telephones in our territory before competition is not known, but the number at this date is 285, of which 241 are residence, and 44 business.