

4-5 EDWARD VII., A. 1905

The subscribers' lines are of double and single wire, the greater part being of single wire. Inside the city they are of bronze, of 1.40 m.m. In the country they are of steel, of 2 m.m.

Length of lines overhead. . . . .	107,100 kil.
Length of lines underground. . . . .	8,000 kil.

The long distance lines are partly owned by the Italian government and partly by the company. These lines are entirely of metallic circuit, of 2, 3 and 4 m.m., and are of bronze wire.

The usual time allowed for long distance conversations is three minutes; the longest time allowed, six minutes.

ITALIAN GENERAL TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC WORK CO.

No. 157.

OTTAWA, ONT., June 15, 1905.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK,  
Postmaster General, Pres. Tel. Committee,  
Ottawa, Ont.

HONOURABLE SIR,—In answer to your esteemed favour on the telegraph and telephone communication in my county, I have the honour to state that all the Saguenay district and part of Chicoutimi is served by the government telegraph system as far as Belle Isle.

As to telephone, there are three companies now dealing in my district:

1st. The Chicoutimi Electric Company, which operates town and seven parishes in the vicinity.

2nd. The Co-operative Telephone Company of Lake St. John and Chicoutimi, which operates in the whole Lake St. John district and in Chicoutimi town and three parishes in the vicinity.

3rd. The Roberval Telephone Company, which operates in Roberval only, but is in complete connection with the Co-operative one No. 2.

The two systems of Roberval and Chicoutimi are the two oldest ones; but their rates being too high (\$25 a year) for the general community, in 1895, I organized with the principal farmers and business men in the different parishes the Co-operative system, which covers the whole district now.

This company does not sell telephones, and shareholders only can have them; the number of these increasing every year, every farmer or merchant who wants to have a 'phone has it now.

The company possess now 189 miles of main lines, operating 214 'phone boxes controlled by 21 switchboards, the whole cost of it being \$8,000.

The Roberval Company controls about 80 boxes worked by one switchboard, connected to the Co-operative system.

The average price of the Co-operative boxes is \$40 each, including the cost of all the constructions.

Every shareholder has free access to any 'phone at any place of the system and their families from home have the same privilege. The rate for the public is 15 cents per three minutes conversation.

The company raises once a year on the shareholders the amount necessary for the maintenance and repairs, which amounts from \$3 to \$5 a year, so that the cost to the shareholders is equal to this amount plus the interest on the capital, viz.: \$40, less the revenue paid by the public.

The rates charged by Roberval Company are \$25 per year.