

APPENDIX No. 1

way to renew the special engagement in Glasgow longer, and accordingly reminded the telephone committee that I had in the first instance only consented to act as general manager to oblige them, and regretted that I did not see my way to continuing in that position any longer. I, therefore, gave up my duties on June 1, 1904, after an engagement of four years and a half, during which the exchange had started from zero and had connected up over twelve thousand lines, and had been placed in a thoroughly remunerative position. On my leaving, the town council passed a resolution thanking me for my services. At the request of the telephone committee I consented to continue my connection with the department as consulting telephone engineer for one year. This year terminated on May 31st last, and at the request of the telephone committee I have again consented to act for them for another year. It will, therefore, be seen that all such statements are absolutely false, and if any doubt remains I would be glad if you would communicate with the town clerk of Glasgow.

The further statement that the expenditure has been extravagant and that the system has to be reconstructed are also false. A modification of the switch-room has been discussed, and the telephone committee have agreed to alter experimentally one of the small switch-rooms at a cost of £1,500, and that is all.

It is necessary for the Select Committee to be extremely careful about statements which are made from the monopolistic side, as the telephone interests both in Great Britain and the United States, have a secret service staff which controls newspapers and expert witnesses, packs public meetings and influences municipal elections for the purpose of obstructing the progress of independent telephony.

I should be glad if you would bring this before the Select Committee on Telephone Systems at the earliest possible opportunity, and have the honour to be,

Yours very faithfully,

A. R. BENNETT.

No. 162.

A. R. BENNETT, M.I.E.E.

QUEEN ANNE'S CHAMBERS,
BROADWAY, WESTMINSTER, X
LONDON, S.W., June 1, 1905.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK,
Postmaster General,
Ottawa, Canada.

Select Committee on Telephones.

SIR,—In consequence of paragraphs appearing in the London papers that Mr. H. L. Webb had given evidence before your Committee in a sense damaging to the telephone undertakings of the post office and the municipalities in the United Kingdom, and that this evidence had produced a considerable impression on your committee, I took the liberty of cabling you on May 29 to the effect that Mr. Webb is a salaried officer of the National Telephone Company, and that he is also connected with American telephone interests. Mr. Webb is retained specially by the National Telephone Company to combat the municipalities and has been in the habit of giving evidence against them at the various local government board inquiries, with a view of preventing any further loans for telephone purposes being sanctioned. The tenor of Mr. Webb's evidence on these occasions is that the municipalities employ obsolete plant, that their systems are badly engineered, that their tariffs are on unremunerative scales, and generally that the municipal telephone systems are badly conceived and worse executed. Notwithstanding—Mr. Webb's evidence in this sense, the local government board have never yet refused a loan to municipalities for telephone purposes, and it is notorious that the evidence runs counter to the experience of the sub-