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EVERY SECTION BENEFITS FROM BELL EXPANSION

Nearly \$28,000,000 Will Be Expended on Telephone Plant Additions in State This Year

5-YEAR TOTAL MAY REACH \$100,000,000

Michigan Company Planning Enormous Activity at Scores of Points

One hundred million dollars will be added to the Michigan Bell Telephone Company's plant during the next five years, it is indicated by President Burch Foraker's announcement of the company's expansion program for 1927 and that projected for 1927. Gross additions made to the telephone plant for this state during 1926, included \$21,161,000. The company's 1927 expansion program is expected to total almost \$28,000,000.

Approximately 45,000 telephones were added to the plant during 1926 compared with a gain of 45,000 in 1925 and probably a similar increase the coming twelve months.

This year the Michigan Bell plans to spend about \$4,500,000 on construction of buildings and purchase of sites; \$7,372,000 for central office equipment; \$4,912,000 for subscribers' telephone equipment; \$8,650,000 on exchange lines and \$3,335,000 on additions to toll circuits. Purchases of material will include 3,550,000,000 conductor feet of copper wire in cable, 1,781,000 pounds of bare copper wire, 525,000 pounds of galvanized iron wire, 72,670,000 conductor feet of insulated copper wire, 1,836,150 feet of clay conduit, 47,000 crossarms and 46,000 poles.

Plant investment per telephone in service is increasing steadily, Mr. Foraker shows, being \$190.04 at present, compared with \$165.69 in 1926. Indications are that it will reach \$250.83 per telephone by 1931.

Many Exchanges Benefit
Many towns will benefit from the Michigan Bell expansion program during 1927. New telephone plants will be provided at a number of points, larger ones at others, type of equipment will be changed at still others and more central offices will be added at some exchanges.

The Michigan Bell now has 1,591,000 miles of wire in service with the probability that its lines will be increased to more than 2,000,000 miles in 1927. More than half a million miles of wire

has been added to the state's telephone plant since 1924.

Over the five-year period—1927-1931 inclusive—major expenditures for outside plant work will be made at many cities and towns, including Grand Rapids, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Allegan, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Niles, Flint, Pontiac, Birmingham, Saginaw, Bay City, Alpena, Big Rapids, Charlotte, East Haven, Ferris, Harbor Springs, Howell, Iron River, Leppening, Maize City, Oxford, Rochester, St. Clair, Wayne, Benton Harbor, Grand Haven, Menominee, Mt. Clemens, Royal Oak, St. Joseph, Traverse City and Bay City.

Many New Buildings
During 1926, the Michigan Bell Telephone Company placed in service new buildings and additions to central offices at a number of points, structures, sites and equipment, costing as follows: Iron Mountain, \$155,000; Kalamazoo, \$944,000; Niles, \$145,000; Birmingham, \$29,000; Ironwood, \$41,000; Detroit, \$3,889,000; Redford, \$247,000; Roseville, \$116,000; Plymouth, \$132,000; Tronton, \$53,000; Wyandotte, \$197,000; Ypsilanti, \$145,000. The following projects were started in 1926, with the indicated expenditures: Saginaw, \$41,000; Battle Creek, \$184,000; Pontiac, \$105,000; Royal Oak, \$172,000. The figures quoted above do not include amounts spent for cable and line construction. Telephone buildings erected the past two years or now under construction and contemplated for the immediate future, represent an investment, exclusive of equipment and outside plant, of \$8,636,000, with consequent large employment of local labor and materials at many points.

Buildings, sites and central office equipment expenditures during 1927 will make a heavy total and will include: Ann Arbor, \$152,000; Battle Creek, \$758,000; Detroit, \$7,254,000; Flint, \$667,000; Grand Rapids, \$493,000; Holland, \$100,000; Leppening, \$33,000; Jackson, \$594,000; Kalamazoo, \$67,000; Mt. Clemens, \$58,000; Pontiac, \$305,000; Port Huron, \$86,000; Royal Oak, \$450,000; Saginaw, \$148,000; St. Joseph, \$55,000; Traverse City, \$154,000; Center Line, \$38,000. The work at a majority of these points will call for large additional expenditures during 1928 and later.

New central offices will be placed in service the coming year at Battle Creek, Belding, Buchanan, Royal Oak and Detroit. Other work is planned for the coming twelve months at Benton Harbor, Holland, Escanaba, Iron River, Sault Ste. Marie, Menominee, St. Ignace and Reed City.

649,000 Telephones in State
The Michigan Bell Telephone Company now serves approximately 540,000 telephones. In addition, 249 local connecting centers that connect with the Bell lines, serve 129,000 stations, all of which can be reached from any Bell telephone, a total of 669,000 telephones for the state.

Daily telephone calls in Michigan total approximately 3,000,000 of which 2,000,000 are made each 24 hours in Detroit exchange.

Something of the enormity of the telephone company's task can be sensed from the estimate that to make the expected net gain of telephones in this state the coming year it will be necessary to make gross connections of 140,000, besides approximately 99,000 disconnections. In addition, change of address will be made by upward of 43,000 of the company's customers, each change involving a disconnection and a new connection.

There now are 16.1 telephones in Michigan per 100 inhabitants, an increase from 12.7 in 1920. The figure is anticipated will grow to 20.2 per 100 by the end of 1931, or more than one telephone for each five men, women and children in the state.

Long Distance Program Heavy
It is expected that the 1927 toll and long distance construction program of the Michigan Bell will be 60 per cent larger than the 1926 program, and will cost \$3,205,000, an aggregate of \$13,500,000 to be expended between now and the end of 1931.

Some of the larger toll cable projects scheduled for 1927 are: Detroit-Ann Arbor, \$153,000; Detroit-Pontiac, \$184,000; Detroit-Toledo, \$32,000; Wyandotte-Trenton, \$61,000; Plymouth-Northville, \$40,000; Kalamazoo-Grand Rapids, \$223,000; Niles-Kalamazoo, \$22,000; Ann Arbor-Jackson, \$448,000; Flint-Saginaw, \$287,000; Detroit-Port Huron, \$70,000; Orr's Junction-Port Huron, \$25,000; Port Huron-Axe, \$16,000; Saginaw-Bay City, \$192,000; additional toll circuits outside of cable, \$753,000; pole work, \$373,000 of \$1,730,000 estimated for the five-year period. Late in 1927, the Detroit-Ann Arbor cable will be extended as far as Jackson and will go on to Lansing in 1928, probably reaching Kalamazoo by 1930, on its way across the state.

Building of a second Pontiac-Detroit toll cable, underground most of the way, is one of the most important construction projects on the 1927 telephone program. Early in the year it is planned to put the Detroit-Pontiac-Flint cable on from its present northernmost point, Mt. Morris, to Saginaw. It is expected to reach Bay City before the end of the year. Between now and 1931 other new cables will be built to connect Grand Rapids with Grand Haven, Benton Harbor with Coloma, Coloma with South Haven, Wyandotte with Trenton, Lansing with Owosso, Owosso with Flint, Niles with Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo with Grand Rapids.

Routing the toll and long distance lines through cable means almost complete protection against storm damage and interference with the service.

To telephone people, the rapidly increasing use of the long distance wires indicates a change in modern business methods. The company's records show an increasing use of the toll circuits for sales campaigns, marketing goods, buying, dispatching trains, handling salesmen on the road, etc.

The Michigan Bell during 1926 extended its toll service educational work for the assistance of business people, to promote the speedier and more economical use of long distance. Social use of the toll lines expanded greatly during the year. There was very growth of the use of the toll circuits of all Michigan College towns by students and their friends and families. Another development of the year was the reduction of rates on long haul toll messages. The reduced rate period was extended to include the hours between 7:00 at night and 4:30 in the morning, with the lowest rate effective between 8:30 p. m. and 4:30 a. m. The reversal of charges privilege was extended to "anyone" or station-to-station calls.

During the past year, 21,023,000 long distance messages were completed over the toll line of the Michigan Bell Company, against 17,470,000 the previous year and comparing with 23,168,000 that it is estimated will be handled during 1927.

Transmission was bettered and various improvements in handling toll and long distance calls were made during 1926, particularly for the purpose of speeding the service.

Constant improvement of both local and toll service is looked for by offices of the Michigan Bell Company as a result of the never-ceasing research and development work being conducted in the Bell laboratories. It is anticipated that 1927 will witness important developments in this work.

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