

### The Largest Telephone Directory in the World

Employees of the New York Telephone Company and the New York & New Jersey Telephone Company, which operate the telephone service of New York and vicinity, have recently been distributing the summer telephone directories, the total edition of which exceeds one million. At the time the new directories are distributed, the old ones are collected in order that the old directories, which have become incomplete and incorrect, due to changes of telephone numbers and new installations, will not be used. Correct directory information is essential to good service, and consequently the telephone companies call in their old directories whenever they distribute a new edition. In view of the size of the present summer edition, this means that over 2000 tons of paper will have to be moved by the companies' distributing force.

The telephone directory of New York and vicinity has become a very important book, for it is not only the hand-book of the telephone user, but it has also become the general directory of the city, and is consulted by hundreds of thousands of people daily, who look in the book to find names, addresses, street numbers, etc.

There are in New York and vicinity at the present time approximately 450,000 telephones. The scope of the book, which contains the listings of practically all of these telephones, can be readily seen.

In 1879 the telephone list of New York was printed on a small card and contained the names of only 252 subscribers. Since that time, with the rapid growth of the telephone business, the book has been rapidly growing in size, the book of February 10 of this year being nearly a foot square, with over 800 pages and weighing over three pounds. This overgrown book was so unwieldy to handle, and the physical difficulties of printing and distributing such a book were so great that the telephone companies worked out a plan of dividing the directory into smaller volumes, which are more easy for subscribers to handle, and which makes directory information more easily obtainable.

Under the new plan, subscribers in New York City receive a New York City directory, which contains the listings of telephone subscribers in the five boroughs of New York City, these listings to be in three separate alphabetical groups: Manhattan and the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens and Richmond; and also a general suburban directory, which contains the listings of telephone subscribers in the suburban sections of the metropolitan telephone area as follows: New Jersey, Suburban Long Island, Westchester County and Rockland County. Each group is a complete alphabetical list of all telephone subscribers in that section.

Subscribers in the suburban territory receive a New York City directory and a suburban directory, containing the listings of all subscribers in or adjacent to the particular suburban section in which the book is distributed. All subscribers in the section are listed in one alphabetical group.

In addition to these books, each suburban town is provided with a small local list. These local directories, which have been issued formerly in only a few suburban towns, have been found most convenient, and, accordingly, arrangements have been made to issue them in all towns throughout the suburban area.

The New York City book and the general suburban book are a trifle larger in dimensions than the present directory, but do not contain as many pages, and will be easier to handle. The type pages of the new books have been designed with care, and although the type face is of necessity small, it is exceptionally clear and legible. The pages being a little wider, give more space for a margin, which is an improvement.

In the new directory the listings of the telephone numbers of the various city departments have been rearranged, all listings appearing in one group under the general caption, "City of New York." Up to the present time the listings of the various departments, bureaus, board and commissions of the city government have been listed under separate headings, the listings being scattered throughout the book. The new arrangement of

listing these various departments under the general caption, "City of New York," is a great improvement over the old method, as all the New York City department listings are in one place, and thus can be found more easily.

A new feature of the suburban directory is the elimination of the local town headings, all subscribers in a suburban section, such as New Jersey, for instance, being listed in one alphabetical listing group. It is felt that this method will be a great improvement over the old way of listing subscribers of each little town under the town heading. With a number of small communities throughout the suburban area it is difficult to remember and find in the present telephone directory the exact town heading under which the person to be called is listed. With all subscribers in any given area listed in one alphabetical group this difficulty is obviated.

The telephone companies maintain a special directory department, where twenty expert copy makers are constantly employed under the supervision of the directory manager. To this department daily reports of all new and changed names for the directory are forwarded, and from these reports copy is made for the printer. This copy is forwarded every day, and a small supplementary list of telephone directory changes, called the addendum, is printed each day and furnished to all of the central offices throughout the territory, in order that information desks of the central offices may have the latest directory information.

The printing of the directories is a stupendous job and requires a very large and a specially equipped printing establishment. When a new edition of the telephone book goes to press, the shop works day and night, Sundays and holidays, in order to get out the directories with the least possible delay.

The New York City telephone directory is in 24 signatures or sections, and is printed on a specially made Hoe press, which turns out 7500 printed sheets of 144 pages each every hour, all properly folded in book form. Each section is transferred from the press to the gathering machine, where all are brought together and stitched, making the book ready for the covering machines. A covering machine, which automatically attaches covers, will cover approximately 1600 books an hour.

The distribution of the edition of telephone directories to subscribers is another big job and requires a small army of men. In Manhattan and the Bronx alone some 400 men, with 20 trucks and a large number of small delivery wagons, are employed doing delivery work. The method is to ship the books in quantity to various points throughout the city. From these points the men carry out the books to subscribers, leaving the new directories and collecting the old. A receipt is obtained for all directories delivered. In the suburban sections, the directories are delivered by means of delivery wagons, of which about 100 are in use during the directory distribution period.

### Telephone Dispatching Being Considered by the New Haven Railroad

The substitution of the telephone for the telegraph in train dispatching service is reported to be under consideration by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. The nine-hour law for telegraph operators, which has increased the payroll account and the payment of heavy toll charges for leased telegraph wires, are primarily responsible for the present consideration of the problem.

### Rocky Mountain Forest Reserves.

A contract has been made recently by the United States Government with the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Co. by which the 1300 miles of telephone line strung through the national forest reserves by the government in the Rocky Mountain region will be connected with the lines of the company. Settlers along the government line will be allowed to make connections with it, provided they build from their homes up to the government line.