

## Scarcity of Telephone Equipment


#### Abstract

As new subscribers a number of individuals have recently placed orders with for telephones. Old subscribers have asked for service at new locations. They have been told by our representatives that immediate compliance with their desires was impossible owing to lack of "telephone facilities' 'in a particular lo- cality. "Why," one will say, "The poles and wires are on the street and the cality. "Why, one will house is already wired"

We wish that the problem were as simple as it sounds. There may be poles and wires, but every wire may be in use in giving service to others. There may be and wires, but every wire may be in use in giving service to others. There may be a cable, but every circuit in it may be assigned to telephones already installed. There There, may be spare wires and circuits but no switchboard apparatus at the cen- tral office to which they can be connected. There may even be sections of tral office to which they can be connected. There may even be sections of switchboard but not available for operation on account of the lack of necessary accessories such as ringing keys, relays, etc. ces such as ringing The reason for the shortage of telephone equipment is simple. During the war period we were unable to maintain our reserve or stock plant as the same materials we use were required and taken for government purposes and - fo industries properly favored by the the government. Since the war the unexpectedly prolonged problems of reconstruction production and deunexpectedly prolonged problems of reconstruction , production and de- livery of materials needed to meet even current demands have been delayed. Every business congress is having similar experiences. The man- ufacturers of telephone equipment have been bending every effort to fill our orders, but they in turn are meeting the same difficulties in securing rubber, pa- per, silk, glass, porcelain, tin, thread, shellac, metal parts and other articles not per, silk, glass, porcelain, tin, thread, shellac, metal parts and generally associated in the public mind with telephone service.

At the same time with this abnormal situation with reference to materials there exists an unprecedented demand for telephone service, and even under these circumstances our record is one of 863 telephones in the State of Oregon. In months of this year we have added 6 . the eight months prior to our declaration of war we gained 2655 telephones. We desire to give service as much as a patron wishes to receive it. We de- sire to promptly comply with the suggestions of public authorities who have tasire to promptly comply with the suggestions of public authorities who have ta- ken a proper interest in the sitlation. We are facing abnormal conditions but we ken a proper interest in the sitiation. We are facing abno will-of necessity gradually-overcome our difficulties.





