

## WILL SPEND A BIG SUM.

### Superintendent Smith Tells What the Telephone Company Will Do if It Gets the New Franchise.

"Should the council grant us the franchise asked for," said Mr. W. W. Smith, superintendent of the Missouri and Kansas Telephone Company, yesterday, "we will spend fully \$300,000 making improvements in our plant. We now have 6,000 miles of wire strung upon poles in the city. Of course there are many wires upon some of the poles. When we get all of our wires in the business part of the city into conduits we will have between twelve and fifteen miles of conduits. Of course we would have to increase the mileage to keep pace with the growth of the city and with the demands of our business. We expect to spend at least \$150,000 the first year after getting the franchise."

"Will the new telephone companies that are being organized throughout the country materially affect the business of your company?" Mr. Smith was asked.

"That is a matter that I cannot determine," he replied. "I notice that new telephone companies are springing up in all parts of the country. One of them claims to have \$80,000,000 capital, although I can't see where it got it. We have the advantage of being an old established company and of having complete plants in Kansas City and elsewhere. We can get as much money as anybody, and if we give the best service I guess we won't suffer much from the opposition of other companies. I don't know, of course, what the council will do in the matter of the franchise asked for by us, but I don't see how any other company can make a fairer proposition."

We recommend the use of Angostura Bit-

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