

TELEPHONES TO BE CHEAPER.

A Franchise Granted a New Company by the Council of Kansas City, Kas.

The Interstate Telephone company, a branch of the Harrison Telephone company, succeeded last night in securing a franchise from the council of Kansas City, Kas., to construct and operate a telephone system in that city. The franchise is for a term of twenty years. The granting of the franchise is the first move taken in that city toward securing cheaper telephone service after the expiration of the Bell telephone patents in next March. The Harrison company controls sixty patents of J. D. Harrison of Arkansas, a cousin of ex-President Harrison. It is represented by Charles B. Riley, attorney, Lyman Uiter and others and it is said to be a powerful syndicate. It proposes to furnish telephones to all responsible parties in the city at a maximum rate of \$6 per year for business houses and \$4 per year for dwellings. Besides this there is a provision that in consideration of the exemption of license tax and occupation tax the company will furnish the city the free use of eight telephones.

The company is making an effort to get a franchise from Kansas City, Mo., also, as without it the Kansas City, Kas., franchise would be of small value. Its Kansas City, Mo., representatives are Major William Warner, C. L. Ferree and others. The company proposes to cover the same ground as near as possible as the Missouri and Kansas Telephone company, which controls the Bell patents in this vicinity, and also to make additions of cities wherever there is an opening. The list includes Atchison, Burlingame, Carbondale, Eudora, Leavenworth, Fort Riley, Hiawatha, Horton, Junction City, Lawrence, Manhattan, Olathe, Ottawa, Paola, Valley Falls, St. Mary's, Wamego and a dozen other cities in Kansas while in Missouri connections are sought with Excelsior Springs, Harrisonville, Independence, Lee's Summit, Liberty, Pertle Springs, Pleasant Hill, Savannah, St. Joseph, Warrensburg, Weston, Sedalia and several other towns. Under the present schedule in Kansas City, Kas., the telephone rate is \$9 per year for business houses and \$6 per year for dwellings. A toll rate of 25 cents is charged for communication with all exchanges outside of the two Kansas Cities. Lyman Uiter stated this morning that the company would be composed of local men. There are several Eastern capitalists interested now, but they will move to this city when the company is under way. He stated that the company had ample capital to do the proposed work.