COUNTRY TELEPHONES IN WEST AUSTRALIA.

STATEMENT BY ACTING P.M.G.

The following letter and telegraphed memorandum in reference to the telephonic facilities afforded West Australian towns has been forwarded to Sir John Forrest, the acting Prime Minister, who has requested its publication for general information:

"Commonwealth of Australia, Postmaster-General's Department.

"Melbourne, May 2, 1907.

"Dear Sir John,—With reference to previous correspondence relative to the telephonic facilities enjoyed by certain towns in West Australia, as compared with those provided for similarly-sized towns in the eastern States, and to your recent representations that York, Katanning, Geraldton, Bunbury, Southern Cross, and such like towns in the first-mentioned State were not connected by the condenser telephone system, as were towns of equal importance in the other States, I beg to inform you enquiry has been made, and to forward for your information the attached copy of a telegram in the matter which has been received from the Deputy Postmaster-General, Perth.—Yours faithfully,

"SAMUEL MAUGER,
"Acting Postmaster-General."

Enclosure.

The statement that telephone facilities on condenser system not being given in West Australia as in other States, etc., Electrical Engineer reports:

"York at present connected by condenser telephone with Burges Siding, but extension of Perth-Northam condenser system to York has been considered, and set of instruments now ready to be sent there for this purpose. Katanning is connected by condenser telephones on Great Southern line with Moora, Kulin, Mingenew, Northam, and York."

Mr. F. A. Casey was appointed at the meeting of the Kalgoorlie Road Board on Monday night to make a valuation of the areas. There were six applicants.