

# ***Automatic Phones at South Perth***

It is expected that the South Perth telephone exchange will be fully automatic by the end of June.

The new issue of the telephone directory will contain the automatic numbers of South Perth subscribers. Until the change is completed, however, only the "MU" signal will have to be dialled.

It is hoped that between 200 and 300 subscribers will be changed over to automatic working at the beginning of next month and the remainder will follow at the rate of about 50 a week.

As the subscribers are changed over they will be able to dial outward calls but will have to receive inward calls through the manual exchange. As soon as every telephone has been changed the exchange will be converted to fully automatic working.

The Deputy-Director of Posts and Telegraphs (Mr. J. G. Fitzpatrick) said yesterday that there were special difficulties in South Perth because it was impossible to instal automatic instruments on a magneto exchange, and that to make a simultaneous switch-over it would be necessary to instal two telephones in each subscriber's residence, and remove the old instrument when the change-over was completed.

Even so, South Perth subscribers will receive the benefit of automatic working earlier than was expected a few weeks ago.