

## TELEPHONE TO GAWLER.

As stated yesterday telephonic communication between Gawler, Adelaide, and the Port was formally opened to the public on Tuesday evening. It is now nearly five years since Dr. Popham first addressed the Postmaster-General on the subject, and although at that time there were many difficulties in the way the matter was persistently kept before the authorities, until at length Mr. Todd consented to construct the line on condition that a guarantee of £125 a year was obtained. This was speedily settled by Dr. Popham guaranteeing £75 and Messrs. Martin and Co. £50, and telephonic communication is now an established fact. There is no doubt it will be a great convenience to Gawler business people, several of whom have had private connections made to their offices. They, however, suggest that communication should be established with the Gawler Railway Station. It is situated about a mile from the town and is not easy of communication. Messrs. Martin & Co. assert that telephonic communication with the railway station would be of ten times more value to them than with Adelaide. This matter was pressed on Mr. Todd's attention during the evening and he will doubtless give it his consideration. The Gawler Exchange is fitted up at the post and telegraph office, is easy of access, and is under the control of the popular local postmaster, Mr. J. W. B. Croft. Mr. Todd was specially invited to Gawler to take part in the opening; and after inspecting the "lions" of the town he was met at the Exchange in the evening by about thirty representative ladies and gentlemen, including Dr. Popham, Hon. James Martin and H. E. Bright, M.L.C's., Messrs. J. Jones (Mayor of Gawler), W. F. Wincey, G. Warren, L. S. Burton, J.P.'s, F. J. Harris, F. May, J. F. Martin, and S. B. Rudall (Town Clerk). The proceedings were opened by Dr. POPHAM, who said it had been a pet hobby of his for over four years to have the telephone connected with Gawler. At that time several difficulties existed, chiefly mechanical, but these had been overcome, and he was glad to say telephonic communication was now established. He thanked Mr. Todd for his valuable assistance, and congratulated the people of Gawler on being drawn into closer communication with Adelaide and the Port. It would be a great convenience to business people in each place, and would conduce to their mutual success. Although it had been feared that the telephone would interfere with the other sources of revenue, viz. post and telegraph, he felt confident that the total receipts would far exceed those of the previous twelve months. He thanked Mr. Todd for being present, and then requested him to declare the line open. Mr. TODD said he was glad to be present and

will to declare the line open. Mr. TODD said he was glad to be present and declare the telephone open between Adelaide, Gawler, and the Port. Gawler business people would be placed in intimate and immediate communication with five or six hundred subscribers in Adelaide and a large number at the Port, and it would be a great convenience to them. The telephone had advantages over the telegraph, for while the latter required a messenger, through which sometimes delays occurred, the former did not, and business was transacted by that in a few minutes which might take nearly all day on the telegraph. There were now 120 or 130 wires in South Australia devoted entirely to telephonic communication, and people now wondered how they used to manage without it. Trade and enterprise in the colonies was greatly helped by the telegraphic and telephonic facilities it enjoyed. He had to apologise to Dr. Popham that the Gawler telephone should have taken four or five years to come, but he was expected to make the department which he controlled a paying one, and if anything was undertaken which did not pay complaints were soon heard. He hoped that its establishment would greatly facilitate the commercial prosperity and increase the friendship which existed between the populations of Gawler and Adelaide. (Cheers.) Mr. Todd then rang up the Adelaide office and congratulatory messages were interchanged. Those present were then treated to a cornet solo played at the Adelaide Exchange, the tunes coming through quite distinctly. This was followed by a couple of songs. The chimes of the Post-office clock were also splendidly heard. At 9 o'clock silence was enjoined to hear the Adelaide clock strike the hour, and those present were much pleased to hear each tone ring out clearly and distinctly as if but a short distance off. Mr. Unbehaun, who had charge of the Adelaide Exchange, was thanked for his arrangements, as also were Mr. Todd, Dr. Popham, and Mr. Croft. An adjournment was then made to the Old Spot, where refreshments were partaken of and various toasts honoured.