

360. The following extract from the Postmaster General's report for 1885 will be found interesting :—"As illustrating the pioneer services which the post office may be called upon to render, in advance of actual settlement. On the 1st January, 1885, a post office and money order office was established at what, for convenience, was designated 'End of Track, Rocky Mountains] Canadian Pacific Railway,' the post office and postmaster's home being in a railway car roughly fitted for the service and moving westward a few miles from day to day with the progress of track-laying. On the 7th November following, with the meeting in the Rocky Mountains of the two sections of railway, the so called 'End of Track' ceased to be. The labourers and navvies employed in construction dispersing, the objects of the temporary office ceased, and it passed out of existence with its name. During these ten months, money orders of the value of \$65,304 were issued at this travelling post office, an amount greater than at any office in Ontario, Quebec, or the Maritime Provinces; except the chief or few city offices, greater in fact than at Kingston, Ont., and nearly equal to the money order issues of the city of Quebec."

TELEGRAPHS.

361. The telegraph lines in many countries are owned and controlled by Government, but in Canada all the principal lines are in private hands, and the Government only own and operate those lines which have been built by them in furtherance of the public service, between places where the traffic could not be expected to be sufficient to compensate private outlay, but where public interests required that there should be communication, especially in connection with the signal and other stations established by the Marine Department along the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, and also, for the advancement of settlement, in the North-West Territories—where the lines already built were found of great value during the recent outbreak.

362. In 1885 there were 1,590 miles of land lines and 174 miles of cable along the St. Lawrence and eastern coasts, 869 miles of land lines in the territories, and 680 miles of land lines and 41 miles of cable in British Columbia. The principal cable lines on the eastern coasts, are in connection with the Island of Anticosti and the Magdalen Islands, and in British Columbia, across the Straits of Georgia, and between Vancouver's Island and Washington Territory. Since the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway some sections of the land lines in British Columbia have been transferred to that company.

363 The following table gives the length of the various lines that were controlled by Government on 30th June, 1885 :—