

## GOVERNMENT Telegraph Lines—Earnings and Working Expenses, 1885.

Telegraph Lines.	Expendi- ture.	Revenue.	Deficit.
	\$	\$	\$
Anticosti Island .....	1,696	300	1,396
Magdalen Islands (including Meat Cove lines).....	4,368	1,363	3,005
Cape Sable, Barrington .....	293	71	222
Chatham, Escuminac .....	150	89	90
Grosse Isle Quarantine.....	100	58	41
Bay of Fundy.....	1,068	804	263
North Shore, St. Lawrence.....	2,570	595	1,975
Subsidies, Material and Contingencies—Gulf lines.....	4,328	.....	4,329
British Columbia system.....	34,356	35,655	+ 1,299
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>48,932</b>	<b>38,919</b>	<b>— 10,023</b>
Corresponding figures for 1883-84 .....	49,435	30,428	— 19,007
North-West system, 1884-85—Qu'Appelle to Edmonton.. ..	22,045	7,500	— 14,545

365. It will be seen that the revenue from the British Columbia system exceeded the expenditure by \$1,299, and was the only system on which any profit was made. It is probable that the business on these lines will continually increase. The total loss on the working of all the lines, with the exception of those in the North-West Territories, was \$10,023, being \$8,984 less than in the preceding year. The expenditure exceeded the revenue of the lines in the Territories by \$14,545, the expenses of maintenance being very heavy, owing to wilful damage, and to the decaying of the poplar poles which had been used in the original construction. In places where cedar or pine cannot be obtained, it is proposed to substitute a light galvanized iron pole, calculated to remain good for thirty or forty years. These poles are now being tried on the new line from Battleford to Fort Pitt.

366. The following table gives particulars concerning the telegraph lines in the principal countries in the world; the figures have been taken partly from official returns and partly from those given in the Statesman's Year Book, 1886, and a column has been added showing the proportion of population to each office.

367. The figures for Canada are believed to be very nearly correct, but they have had to be partly estimated, owing to incomplete returns, the great North-Western Telegraph Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company being the only companies that answered the applications for information.