

## PART II.—TELEGRAPHS.

Government tele-  
graph  
lines.

388. 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.

Land and  
cable  
lines.

389. 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.

Length of  
Government  
lines.

390. The following table gives the length of the various lines that were controlled by Government on 30th June, 1886:—