

office to every 1,821 persons ; in Great Britain there is only 1 to every 5,544 persons, and in the United States 1 to every 3,871 persons. There are more offices in Canada than in the whole of Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania.

Lines in  
United  
States.

395. The greatest length of line is in the United States, which contains very nearly one-fourth of the whole telegraphic mileage of the world. That country also sends the greatest number of messages, but it may be noticed that, while there were no less than 319,412 miles of telegraph wire in the United States more than there were in Great Britain, yet the number of messages sent in the latter country was only less by 4,053,994. There were only six countries in the world with a greater length of telegraphic mileage than Canada, the mileage in India being about the same in the table, and actually less ; for, though the figures for this country are as nearly correct as can be ascertained, they do not state the whole extent of telegraphic accommodation, as full particulars from the Maritime Provinces, which are principally served by the Western Union, are not available.

Telegraph  
returns for  
Canada  
not com-  
plete.

Particu-  
lars of  
G.N.-W.  
and C.P.R.  
Telegraph  
Compan-  
ies.

396. The following are particulars of the two largest companies doing business in Canada:—The Great North-Western Company, on 30th June, 1886, had 17,627 miles of line, 32,643 miles of wire, and 2,000 offices, and the messages during the year numbered 2,233,534. The Canadian Pacific Company, in December, 1886, had 4,555 miles of line, 14,505 miles of wire, and 500 offices ; they only commenced business in September, 1886, and the messages sent since then to the close of the year numbered 250,000. The offices, therefore, of these two companies alone are in the proportion of 1 to every 1,917 of the estimated population, without taking into account either the offices belonging to the Government lines, or those of the Western Union in the Lower Provinces.