

364. The number of offices open in the United States in 1887 was 55,157, but no statistics of the number of letters sent are available ; the number of pieces of ordinary mail matter handled in the railway postal cars was 5,884,690,875. In proportion to population there was one post office to every 10·88 persons ; in Canada the proportion was one to every 6·47 persons.

Postal statistics of the United States.

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PART II.—TELEGRAPHS.

365. The principal telegraph lines in Canada 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.

Government telegraph lines.

366. 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.

Situation of lines.

367. In consequence of the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway through British Columbia, and the establish-

Purchase of British Columbia lines