

Mail mat- 283. The number of newspapers delivered during 1888 in  
 ter in the United States was 1,063,100,000, of registered letters  
 United States, 13,677,169, of dead letters 6,217,876, and of pieces of other  
 1888. matter of 3,578,000,000, making a total number of pieces of  
 6,801,995,045.

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PART II.—TELEGRAPHS.

Government telegraph lines. 284. 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.

Situation of lines. 285. 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 294 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.

Purchase of British Columbia lines by the Canadian Pacific Railway. 286. In consequence of the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway through British Columbia, and the establishment of its accompanying telegraph system, which would necessarily be in competition with the lines operated by the Government over the same territory for the benefit of the