

Total telegraph mileage in the world.

290. According to the American Almanac for 1888 the total length of telegraph lines in the world is 719,415, of which the United States owns the largest portion, or just about one-fourth, but though that country possesses 147,954 miles of line more than the United Kingdom, the difference in the number of messages sent is small, and the Western Union Telegraph Company of America, which possesses 156,814 miles of line and 524,641 miles of wire, sent 2,849,109 messages less than were sent in Great Britain. There are, it will be seen, only six countries that possess a greater telegraphic mileage than Canada, and with the exception of one or two of the Australasian colonies, no other country possesses the same telegraphic facilities in proportion to population.

Canadian Telegraph companies.

291. The telegraph business of Canada is in the hands of the Great North-Western Telegraph Company, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and, in the Maritime Provinces, the Western Union Telegraph Company. The following are particulars concerning them in 1888:—

| COMPANY. | Miles of Line. | Miles of Wire. | Number of Messages. | Number of Offices. |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Great North-Western Tel. Co | 17,783 | 32,963 | 3,007,856 | 1,493 |
| Canadian Pacific Railway Co..... | 5,800 | 17,800 | 630,000 | 590 |
| Western Union..... | 2,966 | 7,545 | 389,725 | 184 |
| Total..... | 26,549 | 58,308 | 4,027,581 | 2,267 |

Press messages are not included in the number sent by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, particulars not being available.

Tele-phones.

292. The telephone system of Canada is almost entirely in the hands of the Bell Telephone Company of Montreal,