

Telegraph
mileage of
the world.

341. According to the American Almanac for 1889 the total length of telegraph lines in the world is 735,906, of which the United States owns the largest portion, or just about one-fourth, but though that country possesses about 160,000 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 171,375 miles of line and 616,248 miles of wire, sent 1,939,470 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

342. 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 1889:—

COMPANY.	Miles of Line.	Miles of Wire.	Number of Messages.	Number of Offices.
Great North-Western Telegraph Co.	17,719	32,905	3,825,581	1,496
Canadian Pacific Railway Co.	6,000	19,000	720,000	650
Western Union	2,897	7,492	450,285	185
Total	26,616	59,397	4,995,866	2,331

Press messages are not included in the number sent by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, particulars not being available. There is now direct communication by the Canadian Pacific Railway system between Halifax, N.S., and Victoria, B.C.