

line, 2,277,397 miles of wire, and that 280,996,277 messages were sent in the years concerned. The total number of messages sent annually throughout the world is probably about 300,000,000.

350. The total length of telegraph lines in the world may be estimated at about 843,000 miles, of which the United States own the largest portion viz. : 254,110 miles or nearly one-third, but though that country possesses about 223,000 miles of lines 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 183,917 miles of line and 678,997 miles of wire, sent 6,489,272 messages less than were sent in Great Britain. There are, it will be seen, only seven 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.

Telegraph
mileage of
the world.

351. 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 1890 :—

Canadian
telegraph
companies

COMPANY.	Miles of Line.	Miles of Wire.	Number of Messages.	Number of Offices.
Great North-Western Telegraph Co ..	17,971	33,445	2,895,247	1,525
Canadian Pacific Railway Co.....	6,300	22,500	812,200	700
Western Union ..	3,124	7,889	374,511	195
Total.....	27,395	63,834	4,081,958	2,420

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