

PART II.—TELEGRAPHS.

Government telegraph lines.

358. 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 require that there shall 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. Since the establishment of the telegraph service in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and along the Atlantic coast, the reduction in marine insurance premiums has been 50 per cent.

Situation of lines.

359. There were 1,228 miles of land lines and 177 miles of cable along the St. Lawrence and eastern coast, 834 miles of land lines in the Territories, and 412 miles of land lines in British Columbia. The principal cable lines on the eastern coast are in connection with the Island of Anticosti and the Magdalen Islands; and in British Columbia, across the Straits of Georgia, and between Vancouver Island and Washington Territory.

Particulars of Government telegraph lines.

360. The following table gives the length of the various lines operated by Government on 30th June, 1891 :—

LAND AND CABLE TELEGRAPH LINES OWNED AND OPERATED BY GOVERNMENT IN THE SEVERAL PROVINCES OF CANADA.

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH LINES.	DISTANCE IN MILES.		Grand Total.
	Intermediate.		
	Land.	Cable.	
Newfoundland (subsidized line)— Port aux Basques to Cape Ray.....	14	14
Nova Scotia— Meat Cove, C.B., to St. Paul's Island.....		20	} 234½
Across Ingonish Harbour, C.B.....		¼	
“ St. Ann's “ “		¼	
Sydney to Meat Cove.....	127½	¼	
Low Point to Lingan.....	5	
Barrington to Cape Sable Island.....	16	1¾	} 86½
Mabou to Cheticamp.....	63	
New Brunswick— Bay of Fundy.....	34	10½	} 86½
Chatham to Escuminac.....	42	