

425. The meteorological service messages and all shipping and fishery reports are transmitted free of charge. Fishery and shipping reports, free.

426. The telegraph business of Canada from Quebec, westward, is in the hands of the Great North-western Telegraph Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, while in the Maritime Provinces it is transacted by the Western Union Telegraph Company. The following are particulars concerning these companies in 1892 :— Canadian telegraph companies

COMPANY.	Miles of Line.	Miles of Wire.	Number of Messages.	Number of Offices.
Great North-western Telegraph Co.	17,967	33,437	2,804,631	1,511
Canadian Pacific Railway Co.	7,000	24,700	1,300,000	800
Western Union	3,175	8,066	360,313	214
Total	28,142	66,203	4,464,944	2,525

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.

427. The ordinary rate for messages to places in Canada is 25 cents for 10 words, not including names and addresses ; to Halifax, Winnipeg and British Columbia rates vary from 30 cents to \$1 for 10 words. To the United States the rate is from 40 cents per 10 words upwards, according to distance. The rate to the United Kingdom is 25 cents per word. Telegraph rates in Canada.

428. The total length of telegraph lines in the world is said to be upwards of 850,000 miles, and of telegraph wire, 1,500,000 miles. The United States possess the greatest individual telegraph mileage, the length in that country being over 210,000 miles, of which 189,576 miles belong to the Western Union Telegraph Company, the wire mileage of the company being 739,105 miles. The number of messages, however, sent by this company was only 62,387,298, as compared with 69,685,480 messages sent in the United Kingdom over 33,054 miles of line. Telegraph mileage of the world.

429. The following table shows that only nine countries in the world possess a greater telegraphic mileage than Canada, and that with the exception of the Australasian colonies, no other country possesses the same telegraphic facilities :— Telegraphs in principal countries.