

430. The rules for the transmission of telegraph messages between the various countries of the world are regulated by telegraph conventions agreed to at Paris in May, 1865, and St. Petersburg in July, 1875, and afterwards revised at London, 1879, at Berlin in September, 1885, and at Paris in June, 1890. The central office of the International Telegraph Bureau is at Berne, Switzerland. All the principal countries of the world are either parties to the treaty, or have joined the general telegraphic system, while the private telegraph companies, through which messages are sent to trans-oceanic countries, have either accepted the stipulations of the treaty or observe its essential regulations.\* According to statistics published by the International Bureau, 207,595,000 telegrams were despatched in Europe during 1891, and 88,422,000 in the rest of the world, making a total of 296,017,000 messages, and, according to the same authority, there were 17,465 telegraph offices in Europe, and 31,000 in the rest of the world.

International  
Telegraph  
Bureau.

431. The telephone system in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba is almost entirely in the hands of the Bell Telephone Company of Montreal, which has 492 offices, 26,651 sets of instruments in use, 6,204 miles of poles and 32,214 miles of wire. The number of messages sent was about 65,133,120. The above figures do not include Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island or British Columbia, all of which are worked by separate companies, particulars of which are not at hand. The longest distance over which telephonic communication has been established is between New York and Chicago, over 900 miles, and the next longest distance between Paris and Marseilles, 562½ miles.

The tele-  
phone in  
Canada.

\* Almanach de Gotha, 1892.