

1167. 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 1893 :—

| COMPANY. | Miles of Line. | Miles of Wire. | Number of Messages. | Number of Offices. |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Great North-western Telegraph Co. . . | 18,000 | 35,000 | 2,900,000 | 1,600 |
| Canadian Pacific Railway Co. | 7,600 | 26,000 | 1,300,000 | 880 |
| Western Union | 3,175 | 8,111 | 350,253 | 212 |
| Total | 28,775 | 69,111 | 4,550,253 | 2,692 |

In addition to the above the Anglo-American Cable Company operate the lines of the Prince Edward Island system, and have 385 miles of poles, 403 miles of wire, and 32 offices. This system includes 1 1-2 miles of cable across the Hillsboro' River, and 12 miles of heavy cable between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

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.

1168. The ordinary rate for messages to places in Canada is 25 cents for ten words, not including names and addresses ; to Halifax, Winnipeg and British Columbia rates vary from 30 cents to \$1 for ten words. To the United States the rate is from 40 cents per ten words upwards, according to distance. The rate to the United Kingdom is 25 cents per word.

1169. 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, open for public service, of which 189,926 miles belong to the Western Union Telegraph Company, the wire mileage of the company being 69,200 miles. The number of messages, however, sent by this company was only 66,591,858, as compared with 69,907,848 messages sent in the United Kingdom over 34,066 miles of line. The total messages despatched within the area of the Telegraphic Union in 1891 are estimated at 235 millions.