

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 $1\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

1344. The ordinary rate for messages to places in Canada is 25 cents for ten words, not including names and addresses not charged for; 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.

1345. The total length of telegraph lines in the world is 601,142 miles of land line, and 153,649 nautical miles of cable; the length of telegraph wire is 1,500,000 miles. The United States possesses the greatest individual telegraph mileage, the length in that country being over 210,000 miles, open for public service, of which 190,303 miles belong to the Western Union Telegraph Company, the wire mileage of the company being 790,792 miles. The number of messages, however, sent by this company was only 58,632,237, as compared with 70,899,498 messages sent in the United Kingdom over 34,066 miles of line. The total messages despatched within the area of the Telegraphic Union in 1892 are estimated at 255 millions.

1346. The following table shows that only eight 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. Canada has one telegraph office to every 1,957 persons. The Australasian colonies vary from New South Wales with one telegraph office for each group of 1,728 persons to Tasmania with telegraph facilities such that there is one telegraph office for every 749 persons. On this continent, the next to Canada is the Argentine Republic with one office for the transmission of telegraphic information for each group of 3,076 persons. The United States come third on this continent with one office for every 3,226 persons. In Europe, Switzerland stands close to Canada, having 1,914 persons to each office. The German Empire has one office for each 2,550 persons. France has 3,621 persons for each office and Great Britain has 4,197. The first proposal to build a telegraph line across the continent from Montreal to the Pacific Ocean was made to the Imperial Government and was recommended by the Governor General in the speech at the opening of the 2nd Session, 1863. It was not entertained by the Legislature of Canada, because that body thought a post road ought to be built simultaneously.