

1167. The name of Canada has been honourably associated with submarine telegraphy. As already stated, the first submarine cable was laid between Dover and Calais in 1851. In 1852 the first cable laid on the North American Continent was laid from Prince Edward Island to New Brunswick, and the second, in 1856, from Cape Breton Island to Newfoundland, 85 miles in length.

1168. In 1880 the Canadian Government entered upon a system of cable communication designed to connect fishing islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy with the mainland, for the purpose of giving speedy information of the weather, of the strike in of fish, and of notifying the quarantine officers of the arrival of steamers, &c. Since that date the Government have established 21 cables, with a total length of 207 nautical miles. In addition, they have built and transferred by sale or lease $65\frac{1}{2}$ miles, making in all 272 miles of cable in Canada. One of these cables is in Lake Ontario.

1169. Anticosti Island and the Magdalen Islands, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, are connected with the mainland at different points. Ports and places along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River are connected by cable, and some of the outlying islands off the Nova Scotian coast are connected with the mainland. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company own 42 miles of submarine cable in British Columbia.

1170. The telephone system in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba is largely under the control of the Bell Telephone Company of Montreal. In the other provinces a number of companies have undertaken to supply the public needs.

The returns received show that there were connected with the several systems 44,000 miles of wire and 33,500 instruments, and that 72,500,000 messages were sent in 1893. The returns for 1895 do not vary greatly from those of 1893.

The first experimental telephone erected in Canada was from the residence of Professor Grahame Bell's father, in Brantford, Ontario, to the residence of the Rev. T. Henderson, also of Brantford. The first commercial line was established at Hamilton, Ontario, in October, 1877. In the same year Edison opened up correspondence with parties in Montreal, but he admitted Bell's claim to priority. Canada is the birth-place of the telephone.