

miles are in Canada and 1,071.84 miles are in the United States. The double track mileage of the system has been increased from 1,002.75 miles on January 1, 1907, to 1,034.28 miles on December 31, 1907. Construction on the new transcontinental line from Moncton, N.B., to Prince Rupert, B.C., on the Pacific Coast, is being proceeded with vigorously. The total length of that portion of the line, viz., from Moncton to Winnipeg, which is being built by the Dominion Government, is approximately 1,807.41 miles. Contracts for construction awarded by the Commissioners of the Transcontinental Railway during 1907 covered a total mileage of 464, and the total number of miles under contract from the Commissioners on December 31, 1907, was 859. The length of the western portion of the line, viz., from Winnipeg to Prince Rupert, which is projected by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, will be approximately 1,740 miles, in addition to the Lake Superior branch of 200 miles in length, extending from Fort William on Lake Superior to Lake Superior Junction on the main line of the eastern section (or Transcontinental Railway). Of this total of 1,940 miles 1,000 miles are at present under actual construction, including the entire Lake Superior branch and the main line between Winnipeg and Edmonton. About 880 miles of grading have been completed and 470 miles of rail have been laid, of which 200 miles are ballasted. During the year 1907 over 22,000 men and 6,000 animals were employed in connection with construction work, and the expenditure on labour and material was about \$12,000,000.

Trans-Atlantic wire-
less telegraph-
phy.

The transmission of messages across the Atlantic by wireless telegraphy, as demonstrated practically by Signor Marconi, constitutes a noteworthy scientific achievement of the year. On October 17 trans-Atlantic communication between Canada and the United Kingdom by the Marconi system was put into commercial operation for the transmission of press messages for newspapers on both sides of the Atlantic, and the service has since been extended¹ to the transmission of ordinary public messages between Montreal and Great Britain and between London and Canada. It is expected that arrangements will shortly be made for the collection of messages in other towns as well. The rate for press and government messages between points in Eastern Canada and Great Britain is 7½ cents per word, and the rate for ordinary public messages between the same points is 15 cents per word. Communications of mutual congratulation on the establishment of this fresh link between Canada and the Motherland were exchanged on the occasion of the opening of the service between His Excellency the Governor General and His Majesty the King.

Reduction of
postage on
British news-
papers and
periodicals.

On May 1st a convention between the Post Offices of the United Kingdom and Canada came into operation under which the postage rates on British newspapers, magazines, and trade

¹ From February 1, 1908.