

ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC WORKS.

Since Confederation and before, the Department of Public Works has been known as the constructing department. In 1879, the railways and canals were placed under control of a new department; the building and maintenance of penitentiaries were transferred to the Department of Justice, the maintenance and construction of lighthouses to the Marine and Fisheries Department and the smaller drill halls and armouries to the Department of Militia and Defence. The work of the Department of Public Works is now divided into three principal branches, viz., Engineering Branch, the Architect's Branch and the Telegraph Branch. The National Gallery of Canada is also administered by this Department. (See Year Book of 1914, p. 645.)

Engineering.—The Engineering Branch comprises the construction and repair of wharfs, piers, breakwaters, dams, weirs, bank and beach protection works; the improvement of harbours and rivers by dredging; the construction, maintenance and operation of government dredging plant; the construction and maintenance of graving docks; the construction, maintenance and working of slides and booms; the construction and maintenance of interprovincial bridges and approaches thereto, and of bridges on highways of federal importance in the Northwest Territories and the maintenance of military roads; also hydrographic and ordinary surveys and examinations, inclusive of precision levelling and geodetic measurements which are required for the preparation of plans, reports and estimates; the testing of cements, etc. The Branch has charge of about 1,700 harbour works, 3 graving docks, 4 slide and boom works, interprovincial bridges, 51 dredges and 84 tugs and other dredging plant.

Architecture.—The Architect's Branch builds and maintains government buildings, post offices, custom houses, examining warehouses, and constructs quarantine, immigration and experimental farm buildings, armouries and drill halls, land offices and telegraph offices.

Telegraphs.—The Telegraph Branch has control over the construction, repair and maintenance of all government-owned telegraph lines and cables. These lines are located in the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon, and statistics relating to them are given on page 480.

Graving Docks.—There are three graving or dry docks completed and owned by the Canadian Government, and a fourth is under contract. The dimensions of these three docks are shown in Table 20. The dock at Kingston, Ontario, is under lease to the Kingston Shipbuilding Company. The dock under contract is to be at Lévis, Quebec, east of the old dock, and is to be 1,150 feet long, divided into two parts (650 and 500 feet, respectively,) and 120 feet wide; it is to have a depth at high water of 40 feet. It will probably cost about \$2,750,000. Under the Dry Dock Subsidies Act, 1910 (9-10 Edw. VII, c. 17),¹ several docks have been subsidized by payments of 3 or 3½ p.c. per annum on the original cost for a given number of years, as shown by Table 21.

¹For description of this Act, see Canada Year Book, 1910, p. xxviii.