

TELEPHONES.

Telephone development in Canada dates from the year 1880, when the Bell Telephone Co. was incorporated by Act of Parliament. Although at this time all patents and lines were owned by the Canadian Telephone Co., they were dependent on the Bell Co., to which they sold out in 1882. By 1883 the first submarine telephone cable had been laid between Windsor and Detroit, and during the year the Bell Co. operated in Canada 4,400 rental earning telephones, 44 exchanges and 40 agencies, with 600 miles of long distance wire. It controlled development in all the provinces except British Columbia, where the greater part of the system has always been in the hands of the British Columbia Telephone Co., Ltd.

With rapid growth of private companies in the Maritime provinces the lines of the Bell Co. were disposed of in 1888, to the Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Co. in Nova Scotia, and to the New Brunswick Telephone Co. in New Brunswick, an interest in these corporations being retained under the terms of sale. A development of a different kind is seen in the three prairie provinces, where well organized systems were sold to the governments of Manitoba and Alberta in 1908 and to Saskatchewan in 1909. The lines in Ontario and Quebec are still largely owned by the Bell Telephone Co.

Telephone Systems.—In all the provinces, besides the large telephone companies, are many smaller systems, both urban and rural, usually owned privately or co-operatively. The number of independent lines is particularly large in Saskatchewan. The steady growth in the use of telephones is shown in Table 67, particularly by the increase of 77,508 telephones in 1920 as compared with 1919. For each 100 of population, there were 9·8 telephones in use during 1920, over 40% of the total being in Ontario. In this respect Canada ranks second among the countries for which such data is available.

Telephone Statistics—Telephone statistics for 1920, published by the Transportation Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, show a considerable increase in telephones during the year, especially when the increased rates are considered. These statistics are summarized in the following tables which also give comparative figures for preceding years. The term capitalization as used in Table 65 includes both capital stock and funded debt. Table 66 gives statistics of the number of telephone companies reporting to the Department of Railways and Canals, the remarkable feature being the growth of the number of co-operative companies since 1911. Table 67 furnishes statistics of instruments in use and mileage of wire since 1911, while Table 68 gives financial statistics of Canadian telephone systems since 1912. Interested persons are referred to the Bureau's report on telephone statistics for more detailed information.