

XI.—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 78 particularly by the increase of 45,824 telephones in 1921 as compared with 1920. For each 100 of population, there were 10.26 telephones in use during 1921, over 42 p.c. of the total being in Ontario. In this respect Canada ranks second among the countries for which such data are available.

Government ownership of telephone lines has now had a 15 years' trial in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Figures for the year ended Dec. 31, 1922, show credit balances to profit and loss of \$1,347,850, \$1,005,268 and \$1,322,631 from the operation of government-owned lines in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba respectively.

Telephone Statistics.—The following tables give figures illustrative of the use of telephones and of the operation of telephone companies for 1921, the latest year available, and previous years.

74.—Progress of Telephones in Canada for the years ended June 30, 1917-1919, and for the calendar years 1919-1921.

Items.	June 30.			December 31.		
	1917.	1918.	1919.	1919.	1920.	1921.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Capitalization.....	79,121,702	85,274,691	91,004,925	100,587,833	116,689,705	132,537,771
Cost of property, etc.....	94,469,534	104,368,628	113,296,160	125,017,222	144,560,969	158,678,229
Revenue.....	20,122,282	22,753,280	24,600,536	29,401,006	33,473,712	36,986,913
Operating expenses.....	12,095,426	13,644,518	16,167,992	20,081,436	28,044,401	30,080,035
Salaries and wages.....	8,882,593	10,410,807	13,048,055	15,774,586	17,294,405	19,000,422
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Telephone Companies.....	1,695	2,007	2,047	2,219	2,327	2,365
Wire mileage.....	1,708,202	1,736,062	1,822,372	1,956,830	2,105,101	2,268,271
Telephones.....	604,136	662,330	724,500	778,758	856,266	902,090
Employees.....	16,490	17,336	19,057	20,491	21,187	19,943
Persons per telephone.....	13.4	12.2	12.2	11.3	10.2	9.7
Persons per mile of wire.....	4.7	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.2	3.9