

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 71, particularly by the increase of 65,174 telephones in 1923 as compared with 1922. For each 100 of population, there were 11 telephones in use during 1923, over 43 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-year's trial in the three Prairie Provinces. Financial statistics of their various departments show an earned surplus in Manitoba of \$32,274 for the year ending Nov. 30, 1922, a credit balance in Saskatchewan of \$821,502 for the year ending April 30, 1923, and net earnings in Alberta of \$424 for the calendar year 1922.

Telephone Statistics.—The following tables give figures illustrative of the use of telephones and the operations of telephone companies for 1923, the latest year available, and previous years. Certain statistics of radio telephony are also given on page 647.

71.—Progress of Telephones in Canada for the calendar years 1919-1923.

Items.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Capitalization.....	100,587,833	116,689,705	132,537,771	143,802,023	142,518,243
Cost of property, etc.....	125,017,222	144,560,969	158,678,229	167,332,932	179,002,152
Revenue.....	29,401,006	33,473,712	36,986,913	39,559,149	42,132,959
Operating expenses.....	20,081,436	28,044,401	30,080,035	29,966,181	32,390,370
Salaries and wages.....	15,774,586	17,294,405	19,000,422	17,305,759	18,182,429
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Telephone companies.....	2,219	2,327	2,365	2,387	2,459
Wire mileage.....	1,956,830	2,105,101	2,268,271	2,396,805	2,574,083
Telephones.....	778,758	856,266	902,090	944,029	1,009,203
Employees.....	20,491	21,187	19,943	19,321	21,002
Persons per telephone.....	11.3	10.2	9.7	9.5	9.1
Persons per mile of wire.....	4.5	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.5