

line to Buffalo. The Montreal Telegraph Co. commenced the construction of a line to Toronto in February, 1847, and began actual operation between the two cities on Aug. 3 of the same year. By the end of the year it had 540 miles of wire in use, 9 offices, 35 employees, and had sent out 33,000 messages. Both the Montreal and the Toronto companies were incorporated by special Acts at the 1847 session of the Legislature. In 1852 the Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara Company sold out to the Montreal company.

The British North American Electrical Association was also formed in 1847, with the object of connecting Quebec with the Lower Provinces, but for some years its line went no farther than Rivière du Loup, though it was finally extended to Woodstock, N.B., where it connected with the American Telegraph Co., which already had lines in New Brunswick. The New Brunswick Telegraph Co. built a line connecting Saint John with the Maine lines in 1848, and in the following year extended it to Amherst, N.S., where it connected with the Nova Scotia line, bringing Halifax for the first time into telegraphic communication with New York.

The movement for consolidation of services, so evident in the Canadian railways, was also active among the telegraph companies. Thus the Montreal company bought out the Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara Telegraph Co., the Montreal and Bytown Telegraph Co., the Grand Trunk Telegraph Co., and maintained a strenuous competition with the Dominion Telegraph Co., organized in 1868. In 1881, however, the conflicting interests were consolidated under lease by the Great North-Western Telegraph Co., this move effecting great economies in operation. A few years later, however, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company established competing lines, and by September, 1886, had opened 366 offices in Ontario, Quebec and Western Canada.

The Dominion Government Telegraph Service was commenced with the object of furnishing rapid communication in outlying districts where the amount of business was so small that commercial companies would not enter the field, but where the public interests required that there should be communication. Its services are especially useful in connection with the signal and other stations established by the Department of Marine along the north shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia. On Mar. 31, 1926, the Government Telegraph Service comprised 10,721½ miles of pole line, 13,665¾ miles of wire, 354½ knots of cable and 1,066 offices. During the fiscal year 1925-26, 178 miles of new line had been constructed, mainly in British Columbia and the Yukon.

Telegraph Systems.—The Canadian telegraph systems are composed of lines owned by the Dominion Government and by chartered railway and telegraph companies. The lines previously owned by the Great North Western Telegraph Co., the Grand Trunk Pacific Telegraph Co., the Canadian Northern Railway Co., and the National Transcontinental Railway are now owned by the Government and are operated by the Canadian National Telegraph Co. (formerly Great North Western Telegraph Co.). The Dominion Government Telegraph Service operates the line to the Yukon and other lines in outlying districts.

The Canadian system, in proportion to population, is one of the most extensive in the world, and is operated under considerable climatic and geographic disadvantages. In the operation of railways and in the receipt and despatch of market and press reports its services to the nation are invaluable.

Telegraph Statistics.—A brief summary table giving the more important figures of the operation of Canadian telegraphs from 1921 to 1925 follows.