

Brantford, in 1876, and the first telephone talk over any distance was conducted between Brantford and Paris, a distance of 8 miles, on Aug. 10, 1876.

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 the 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.

Government ownership of telephone lines has now had a 16 years' trial in the three Prairie Provinces. Financial statistics of their various departments show a deficit in Manitoba of \$818,879 on Nov. 30, 1925, reserves amounting to \$2,051,157 in Saskatchewan on April 30, 1924, and a deficit in Alberta of \$246,135 on Dec. 31, 1925.

Telephone Systems.—The 2,495 telephone systems existing in 1925 (Table 74) include the three large provincial systems in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and two smaller governmental systems in Ontario, together with the system operated by the Parks Branch of the Dominion Department of the Interior. There were also 144 municipal systems, the largest operated by the cities of Edmonton, Fort William and Port Arthur. Out of the 1,551 co-operative telephone companies, no fewer than 1,186 are in Saskatchewan alone, and 211 in Nova Scotia. Besides the above, there were 502 stock companies, 106 partnership and 186 private systems.

The steady growth of the use of telephones, from 1911 on, is indicated in the summary statistics of Table 73, showing an increase from 302,759 in 1911 to 1,144,095 in 1925, or from 4.2 to 12.2 telephones per 100 of the population. By provinces, the number of telephones in 1925 was as follows:—Ontario 508,513, Quebec 223,227, Saskatchewan 100,096, British Columbia 99,346, Alberta 70,073, Manitoba 69,000, Nova Scotia 39,242, New Brunswick 28,945, Prince Edward Island 5,517, Yukon Territory 136. The number of instruments per 100 estimated population was as follows:—British Columbia 17.72, Ontario 16.39, Saskatchewan 12.02, Alberta 10.75, Manitoba 10.52, Quebec 8.86, Nova Scotia 7.32, New Brunswick 7.18, and Prince Edward Island 6.32. In the proportion of telephones to population Canada as a whole, with 12.22 telephones per 100 population, ranks second to the United States, which has 14.2 telephones per 100 population.

Statistics of the number of telephone companies reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics are given in Tables 74 and 75. Special attention may be given to the growth of co-operative companies.