

79.—Financial Statistics of Canadian Telephone Companies for the years 1912-1925.<sup>1</sup>

Years.	Capital stock.	Funded debt.	Cost of property and equipment.	Salaries and wages.	Gross revenue.	Operating expenses.	Net operating revenue.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1912.....	21,533,605	24,743,247	56,887,799	2,659,642	12,273,627	9,094,659	3,178,938
1913.....	26,590,501	33,256,503	69,214,971	6,839,309	14,897,278	11,175,889	3,721,589
1914.....	28,644,340	41,647,554	80,258,356	8,250,258	17,297,269	12,882,402	4,414,867
1915.....	28,947,122	45,337,869	83,792,583	8,357,029	17,601,673	12,836,715	6,764,958
1916.....	29,416,956	47,503,358	88,520,021	7,852,719	18,594,268	11,147,201	7,447,067
1917.....	29,476,367	49,645,335	94,469,534	8,882,593	20,122,282	12,095,426	8,026,856
1918.....	29,803,090	55,471,601	104,368,627	10,410,807	22,753,280	13,644,524	9,108,756
1919.....	35,227,233	65,360,600	125,017,222	15,774,586	29,401,006	20,081,436	9,319,570
1920.....	36,149,838	80,539,367	144,560,969	17,294,405	33,473,712	28,044,401	5,429,311
1921.....	42,194,426	90,343,345	158,678,229	19,000,422	36,986,913	30,080,035	6,906,878
1922.....	48,968,198	94,833,825	167,332,932	17,305,759	39,559,149	29,966,181	9,592,968
1923.....	57,366,675	95,306,347	179,002,152	18,182,429	42,132,959	32,390,370	10,266,285
1924.....	63,798,133	96,216,887	193,884,378	18,293,234	44,322,598	33,615,686	10,706,912
1925.....	65,514,130	108,650,417	210,535,795	19,106,383	47,233,617	35,566,947	11,666,670

<sup>1</sup>Figures for the years 1912-1918 are from July 1 to June 30; those for 1919-1925 are for the years Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

## XII.—THE POST OFFICE

**Historical.**—A postal service was established between Montreal and Quebec as early as 1721, official messengers and other travellers making a practice of carrying letters for private persons. When Canada came under British rule, the Post Office was placed on a settled footing by Benjamin Franklin, then Deputy Postmaster-General for the American colonies, who visited Canada in 1763, opened post offices at Quebec, Montreal and Three Rivers, and also established courier communication between Montreal and New York. Since 1755 Halifax had had a post office and direct postal communication with Great Britain.

As a consequence of the American Revolution and the resulting isolation of Canada from Nova Scotia, the first exclusively Canadian postal service, a monthly courier route from Halifax to Quebec, was established in 1788, involving a seven weeks' trip and expenses of about £200, of which only one-third was met by postal charges. Up to 1804 the postal facilities of Upper Canada consisted of one regular trip by courier each winter with whatever mail might reach Montreal during the season of navigation. Charges were necessarily high, \$1.12 being paid on ordinary letters from London to Toronto *via* Halifax.

The first post office in Toronto was opened about 1800. By 1816 there were 19 offices in the two Canadas, and in 1827 this number had increased to 114. At this time the system consisted primarily of a trunk line of communication between Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and Amherstburg, over which couriers travelled at varying intervals. Branching off this line were routes to Sorel, Sherbrooke, St. Johns, Hull, Hawkesbury, Perth and Richmond, with most deliveries made once or twice a week.