

## XI.—TELEPHONES.

The telephone is in part a Canadian invention, though its inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, a Scotchman by birth, was at the time of its invention a resident of the United States, having immigrated with his father to Brantford, Ontario, in 1870, and subsequently proceeded to Boston. According to his account, the discovery of the telephone, both as to its main principle and as to the first transmission of the human voice, was made at his father's residence at Tutela Heights, 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 \$531,186 on April 30, 1927, reserves amounting to \$2,677,501 in Saskatchewan on April 30, 1926, and a deficit in Alberta of \$246,135 on Dec. 31, 1925.

