

The accompanying table shows that charges for electricity for domestic lighting and in the majority of cases for other domestic uses declined 31·3 p.c. from 1913 to 1926, the index being 68·7 in the latter year. This result is due largely to the increased production of electricity, to the influence of public ownership, and to the fact that lower rates increased consumption and led to service economies in the way of increased load, etc., which made further price reductions possible. When it is remembered that general prices in Canada were in 1926 at least 50 p.c. higher than in 1913, the significance of the decline in the cost of electric light will be more adequately appreciated.

16.—Weighted Index Numbers of Domestic Electric Light Rates.

(Rates in 1913 = 100.)

Provinces.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Canada.....	74·4	72·2	68·9	68·7
Prince Edward Island.....	119·8	119·8	119·8	119·8
Nova Scotia.....	89·6	83·6	83·6	83·5
New Brunswick.....	88·2	79·3	70·5	68·9
Quebec.....	73·6	71·0	64·4	63·4
Ontario.....	63·7	62·0	61·6	60·6
Manitoba.....	99·9	99·9	99·9	99·9
Saskatchewan.....	98·0	100·6	97·6	97·2
Alberta.....	78·1	83·0	82·0	79·0
British Columbia.....	79·3	70·6	70·4	68·3
Yukon.....	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

4.—Rates and Index Numbers of Telephone Charges in Canada.

Statistics computed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, based on an inquiry conducted as for 1925, show that domestic telephone rates in Canada were 19 p.c. higher than in 1913 and business telephone rates 22 p.c. higher. These figures are based on rates prevailing in 74 cities and towns throughout Canada. By provinces, the index numbers in 1925 for domestic telephone rates, taking 1913 as 100, were:—Prince Edward Island 135·5, Nova Scotia 121·5, New Brunswick 127·3, Quebec 104·8, Ontario 125·5, Manitoba 126·8, Saskatchewan 113·8, Alberta 149·7, British Columbia 109·5.

The index numbers for business telephone rates in 1925, taking 1913 as 100, were:—Prince Edward Island 116·7, Nova Scotia 164·1, New Brunswick 152·3, Quebec 114·3, Ontario 123·6, Manitoba 131·2, Saskatchewan 128·2, Alberta 152·9, British Columbia 109·7.

For domestic telephones the average monthly rate (weighted) for Canada, was \$2.01 in 1913 and \$2.40 in 1925. In 1925, British Columbia showed the lowest monthly average rate (weighted), *viz.*, \$2.17 and Manitoba the highest, \$3.12. Similar monthly average rates for other provinces were:—Prince Edward Island \$2.25, Nova Scotia \$2.43, New Brunswick \$2.75, Quebec \$2.42, Ontario \$2.31, Saskatchewan \$2.56, Alberta \$2.50.

The average monthly rate (weighted) for business telephones in Canada was \$4.41 in 1913 and \$5.39 in 1925. Prince Edward Island showed the lowest rate, which was \$3.50 in 1925. The Manitoba average rate (weighted) was \$6.69 in 1925. Other provincial rates were:—Nova Scotia \$5.81, New Brunswick \$5.39, Quebec \$4.96, Ontario \$4.76, Saskatchewan \$3.96, Alberta \$5.09 and British Columbia \$6.26.

Tables giving further details of domestic and business telephone rates in Canada in 1913 and 1925 were published on p. 752 of the 1926 Year Book.