

These deficits, however, are now mainly due to high capital charges, as operating expenses and operating revenue have been brought nearly to a balance. In the calendar year 1928, the operating loss was \$1,209,083 as compared with \$720,735 in 1927, \$90,160 in 1926, \$948,053 in 1925 and \$1,440,880 in 1924. Total revenue in 1928 was \$9,112,511, and total operating expenses \$10,321,594. Generally speaking the adverse showing was due to reductions in rates, the increased competition on certain routes together with the strike at Antwerp during the summer months and the continued reduced buying power in South Wales due to the limited coal-mining operations.

During 1928, a total of 232 voyages was made, the majority being to the United Kingdom and the European Continent, the West Indies, Newfoundland, Australia and California. Officers of the Company outside of Canada are located in London, in the West Indies, in Australia, in New Zealand and in Newfoundland, while agencies give the Company representation in all the principal shipping centres of the world.

PART X.—TELEGRAPHS.

The Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara Electro-Magnetic Telegraph Co., organized by a group of Toronto men, was the first to establish an electric telegraph service in the pre-Confederation province of Canada. It was formally organized on Oct. 22, 1846, and its Toronto-Hamilton line was opened on Dec. 19 of the same year. In January, 1847, the line was completed to Queenston, whence there was a connecting 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 and 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 Co. 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 Maritime 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 Co. established competing lines, and by September, 1886, had opened 366 offices in Ontario, Quebec and Western Canada.