

and betterments on old lines, \$106,926,685. There were 504 miles of new lines opened for operation during 1929, 672.3 miles completed but not opened for traffic and 552.7 miles under construction. Total track mileage in 1929 was 55,868 as compared with 55,455 in 1928, a net increase of 413 miles. The expenditure of electric railways on maintenance of way and structures account increased slightly from \$4,444,335 in 1928 to \$4,560,916 in 1929. There was a net increase of \$9,416,397 during 1929 in the capital investment of electric railways.

As for the telephone systems of Canada, the pole line mileage increased from 207,566 in 1928 to 220,525 in 1929, and the wire mileage from 3,982,867 to 4,476,213 in the same period. The property and equipment account was \$263,201,651 in 1928 and \$291,589,148 in 1929.

The pole line mileage of the telegraph systems decreased from 53,777 in 1928 to 52,835 in 1929 owing to the elimination of duplicating lines, while the wire mileage increased from 337,971 to 360,883. The telegraph and cable companies reported new construction valued at \$3,050,123 and alterations and repair work costing \$1,796,632, or a total expenditure for construction of \$4,846,755 for the year.

Contracts Awarded.—A record of contracts awarded during the years 1911-30, as compared by MacLean Building Reports, Ltd., is given in Table 1. The aggregate for 1930, while 20.7 p.c. less than for the record year 1929, and slightly less than the previous maxima established in 1928 and 1912, still showed construction operations at a high level considering the disturbed economic situation. When immigration was exceptionally great in 1912, an extensive building program was necessary to care for the rapidly growing population, while railway construction was also very active. In 1928, the increase was largely accounted for by residential building and industrial contracts were considerably ahead of 1927. Although residential construction declined in 1929, the tremendous increase in engineering construction and the significant advances in building for business purposes combined to make the record total. While construction operations of all types declined in 1930 when compared with 1929, the declines were most pronounced in the industrial, residential and business types, whereas engineering construction continued very active and was nearly double that of any year prior to 1929, as may be seen from Table 2.

1.—Summary of the Value of Construction Contracts Awarded in Canada, 1911-1930, as Compiled by MacLean Building Reports, Ltd.

Year.	Value of Construction Contracts.	Year.	Value of Construction Contracts.
	\$		\$
1911.....	345,425,000	1921.....	240,123,300
1912.....	463,083,000	1922.....	331,845,800
1913.....	384,157,000	1923.....	314,254,300
1914.....	241,952,000	1924.....	276,261,100
1915.....	53,916,000	1925.....	297,973,000
1916.....	99,311,000	1926.....	372,947,900
1917.....	84,841,000	1927.....	418,951,600
1918.....	99,842,000	1928.....	472,032,600
1919.....	190,028,000	1929.....	576,651,800
1920.....	255,605,000	1930.....	456,999,600