

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.

Telephone Systems.—The 2,415 telephone systems existing in 1929 (Table 73) include the three large provincial systems in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and a smaller governmental system in Ontario, together with the system operated by the National Parks of Canada, Department of the Interior. There were also 137 municipal systems, the largest operated by the cities of Edmonton, Fort William and Port Arthur. Out of the 1,543 co-operative telephone companies, no fewer than 1,176 are in Saskatchewan alone and 205 in Nova Scotia. Besides the above, there were 492 stock companies, 106 partnerships and 132 private systems.

The steady growth of the use of telephones from 1911 on is indicated in the summary statistics of Table 72, showing an increase from 302,759 in 1911 to 1,399,986 in 1929, or from 4.2 to 14.3 telephones per 100 of the population. By provinces, the numbers of telephones in 1929 were as follows:—Ontario 619,580, Quebec 293,353, British Columbia 125,861, Saskatchewan 116,467, Alberta 80,273, Manitoba 79,279, Nova Scotia 44,575, New Brunswick 33,910, Prince Edward Island 6,553, Yukon Territory 135. The number of instruments per 100 estimated population was as follows:—British Columbia 21.2, Ontario 18.9, Saskatchewan 13.4, Alberta 12.4, Manitoba 11.9, Quebec 10.9, New Brunswick 8.1, Nova Scotia 8.1 and Prince Edward Island 7.6. In the proportion of telephones to population Canada as a whole, with 14.3 telephones per 100 population, ranks second to the United States which has 16.3 telephones per 100 population.

Estimates of the number of telephone conversations during 1929 were 2,525,500,000 local and 37,851,600 long distance calls. These estimates were based on estimates made by systems operating 83.6 p.c. of all telephones in Canada and their estimates were based on actual counts made on days of normal business activity, and, after adjusting for uncompleted calls, holidays, Sundays, etc.,