

**Submarine Cables.**—Six transoceanic cables have termini in Canada—five of them on the Atlantic and one on the Pacific coast. The date on which the cable was first shown to be of commercial value was in 1866, and up to the present its use has greatly increased. The Atlantic cables are controlled by English and American interests. The Pacific cable, from Canada to Australia and New Zealand, has been in operation since 1902, and has been owned by a partnership of the Governments of Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia and Canada. As a result of the recommendation of the Imperial Wireless and Cable Conference of 1928, in view of increased wireless competition, it was decided to dispose of the Pacific and West Indian Islands cable systems to the Imperial and International Communications Company, a company formed to take over all Empire-owned cables and lease the Empire-owned beam wireless systems. The necessary legislation was passed by Great Britain in February, 1929, and by Canada in June, 1929, and Canada received \$591,662 as her share of the proceeds of the sale.

## Section 2.—Radio Service.<sup>1</sup>

**Radio.**—Under the Radiotelegraph Act (c. 195, R.S.C., 1927), the administration of radio within the Dominion is vested in the Department of Marine under the jurisdiction of the Hon. Alfred Duranleau, Minister. The matter of Dominion jurisdiction has been questioned by certain of the provinces from time to time, but on Feb. 9, 1932, the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council ruled that the control and regulation of radio communication is within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament. This decision is a very important one and will do much to further the nationalization of radio broadcasting in Canada. A form of nationalization was recommended by the Aird Commission on Radio Broadcasting in 1929, but until the recent Privy Council decision, the way was not completely open for nationalization. Following that decision the Government took immediate action and, on Feb. 16, 1932, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of a Parliamentary committee to investigate the Canadian radio broadcasting industry and "advise and recommend a complete technical scheme of radio broadcasting for Canada, so designed as to ensure from Canadian sources as complete and satisfactory a service as the present development of radio science will permit". The Aird Commission's report was given consideration by the committee. As a result of the report of the committee the Prime Minister sponsored a Bill in the House of Commons to establish a Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission of three members, to control a nationalized system, on May 18, 1932. The House unanimously supported the measure.

**Historical.**—The first radio communication to be established in Canada was between Chateau Bay, P.Q., the terminus of the Government north shore telegraph line, on the north side of Belle Isle straits, and Belle Isle, Newfoundland. The stations were erected by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. of London, England, for the Telegraph Division of the Department of Public Works, and they were placed in commission on Oct. 22, 1901. The purpose of the stations was to replace the existing cable between the island and the mainland which was continually being interrupted by ice. The two stations carried on successful communication until they were replaced by the establishment of a regular chain of coast stations, along the east coast and gulf of St. Lawrence, by the Department of Marine, in 1904, 1905 and 1906.

<sup>1</sup> Revised by Commander C. P. Edwards, O.B.E., Director, Radio Service, Department of Marine, Ottawa.