

## 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 further 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. and 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.

**Dominion Government Telegraph Service.**—This service is operated by the Telegraph Branch of the Department of Public Works. Its general object has been to furnish rapid communication for outlying and sparsely settled districts where the amount of business is so small that commercial companies will not enter the field but where the public interests require that there should be communication. Thus these facilities include: telegraph and telephone services to scattered settlements around the coasts of Cape Breton island; cable services to Campobello, Grand Manan and other islands in the bay of Fundy, to Prince Edward Island, Magdalen islands and Anticosti island in the gulf of St. Lawrence; telegraph or telephone services along the north shore of the gulf of St. Lawrence from Quebec to the straits of Belle Isle; cable connections with Pelee and Manitoulin islands in Ontario; some lines to northern outlying districts in Saskatchewan; lines from Edmonton to the Athabasca and Peace River country in Alberta; telegraph or telephone communications around the coast of Vancouver island and to fishing, lumbering and mining settlements along the coast of the mainland of British Columbia, as well as to isolated

\*Revised by G. S. Wrong, B.Sc., Chief of the Transportation and Public Utilities Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which issues an annual report dealing with telegraph statistics.