

Section 2.—Telephones.

A brief historical account of the early development of telephones in Canada appeared at p. 781 of the 1934-35 Year Book.

Subsection 1.—Systems and Equipment.

Telephone Systems.—The 3,191 telephone systems existing in 1937 included 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 Mines and Resources. There were also 142 municipal systems, the largest operated by the cities of Edmonton, Fort William, and Port Arthur. Out of the 2,237 co-operative telephone companies, no fewer than 1,152 were in Saskatchewan alone, 757 in Alberta, and 212 in Nova Scotia. The largest among the 558 joint-stock companies operating telephone systems in 1937 were the Bell Telephone Co., and the British Columbia Telephone Co. Over 58 p.c. of the total telephone investment in Canada belonged to the Bell Telephone Co., and their telephones in Quebec and Ontario constituted 56 p.c. of the total for Canada.

Telephone Equipment.—The number of telephones per capita is second only to that of the United States, the numbers being 14.4 telephones per 100 population in the United States in 1937 and 11.9 in Canada. This is a favourable showing in view of the low density of population in Canada as a whole and the fact that 46 p.c. (46.30 p.c. in 1931) of the population is rural.

There were 594,274 telephones out of a total of 867,714 in 51 leading cities of Canada operated from automatic switchboards; the remainder, or 273,440, were operated from manual switchboards. Automatic switchboards have completely displaced manual switchboards in the principal cities of the Prairie Provinces and are displacing them in the other provinces.

3.—Mileages of Pole Line and Wire, and Telephones in Use Classified by Business, Residential, Rural, and Public Pay, as at Dec. 31, 1926-37.

Note.—Figures for the years 1911-25 will be found at p. 724 of the 1938 Year Book.

| Year. | Sys-tems. | Pole-Line Mileage. | Mileage of Wire. | Telephones in Use. | | | | | Per 100 Popu-lation. |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------------|
| | | | | Business. | Resi-dential. | Rural. ¹ | Public Pay. | Total. | |
| | No. | miles. | miles. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| 1926..... | 2,479 | 201,604 | 3,306,214 | 311,557 | 597,439 | 270,686 | 21,336 | 1,201,008 | 12.8 |
| 1927..... | 2,462 | 204,245 | 3,691,035 | 324,425 | 637,536 | 275,644 | 22,482 | 1,259,987 | 13.2 |
| 1928..... | 2,447 | 207,566 | 3,982,867 | 345,771 | 684,820 | 280,878 | 23,065 | 1,334,634 | 13.8 |
| 1929..... | 2,415 | 220,525 | 4,486,218 | 366,418 | 724,001 | 269,487 | 22,916 | 1,382,822 | 14.1 |
| 1930..... | 2,414 | 222,113 | 4,790,224 | 373,387 | 740,050 | 264,681 | 24,743 | 1,402,861 | 14.1 |
| 1931..... | 2,399 | 222,196 | 4,965,076 | 369,281 | 723,868 | 245,485 | 25,566 | 1,384,200 | 13.1 |
| 1932..... | 2,414 | 220,459 | 5,089,261 | 351,509 | 663,815 | 220,680 | 25,241 | 1,261,245 | 12.0 |
| 1933..... | 2,403 | 219,753 | 5,134,871 | 341,063 | 617,532 | 209,611 | 24,124 | 1,192,330 | 11.2 |
| 1934..... | 2,388 | 208,131 | 5,133,521 | 349,822 | 605,206 | 217,182 | 24,749 | 1,197,029 | 11.1 |
| 1935..... | 2,383 | 207,916 | 5,120,610 | 351,427 | 615,052 | 218,818 | 23,518 | 1,208,815 | 11.1 |
| 1936..... | 3,063 | 210,926 | 5,197,042 | 371,401 | 641,229 | 229,940 | 23,658 | 1,266,228 | 11.5 |
| 1937..... | 3,191 | 209,767 | 5,307,834 | 386,669 | 676,001 | 235,763 | 24,361 | 1,322,794 | 11.9 |

¹ Includes telephones on rural exchange lines and urban exchange lines which have more than four parties.