

Section 2.—Telephones.

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

Subsection 1.—Systems and Equipment.

Telephone Systems.—The 3,203 telephone systems existing in 1938 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 143 municipal systems, the largest operated by the Cities of Edmonton, Fort William, and Port Arthur. Out of the 2,259 co-operative telephone companies, no fewer than 1,151 were in Saskatchewan alone, 774 in Alberta, and 211 in Nova Scotia. The largest among the 551 stock companies operating telephone systems in 1938 were the Bell Telephone Co., and the British Columbia Telephone Co. Over 58 p.c. of the total telephone investment in Canada belongs to the Bell Telephone Co., and their telephones in Quebec and Ontario constitute 56 p.c. of the total for Canada.

Telephone Equipment.—In telephones per hundred population Canada is second only to the United States, the figures being 15·09 telephones per 100 population in the United States in 1938 and 12·13 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 617,727 telephones out of a total of 891,707 in 51 leading cities of Canada operated from automatic switchboards; the remainder, or 273,980, 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, 1929-38.

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1911-28 will be found at p. 724 of the 1938 Year Book.

Year.	Systems.	Pole-Line Mileage.	Mileage of Wire.	Telephones in Use.					
				Business.	Residential.	Rural. ¹	Public Pay.	Total.	Per 100 Population.
	No.	miles.	miles.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1929....	2,415	220,525	4,486,213	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	4,985,076	369,281	723,868	245,485	25,566	1,364,200	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	349,892	605,206	217,182	24,749	1,197,029	11·1
1935....	2,833	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	5,307,884	386,669	676,001	235,763	24,361	1,322,794	11·9
1938....	3,203	211,895	5,397,244	396,975	695,961	240,204	26,277	1,359,417	12·1

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