

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 Company of London, England, for the Telegraph Division of the Department of Public Works. Their purpose was to replace the existing cable service between the island and the mainland which was continually being interrupted by ice. Since that time, radio-telegraphic communication facilities have expanded steadily. Most of the larger stations are under actual Government operation and, at present, networks of direction-finding, marine radio beacon, aviation radio range, and other types of stations provide a complete service for ships, aircraft, and all other users of such means of communication (see pp. 654 to 657). There are also a number of controlled small private stations in operation.

Broadcasting of the human voice by radio, or radio-telephony was not, in the first stages, controlled by the Dominion Government. It commenced with test programs carried out by the Canadian Marconi Company at Montreal during the winter of 1919. Regular organized programs were begun in December, 1920, by the same company. By April, 1922, the establishment of broadcasting stations on a general scale had commenced, and 52 private, commercial and amateur broadcasting licences were granted during the fiscal year 1923.

In 1927, the administration of radio within the Dominion was vested in the Department of Marine. The matter of Dominion jurisdiction was questioned by certain of the provinces on different occasions, but on Feb. 9, 1932, the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council ruled that the control and regulation of radio communication was within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament. This decision was a very important one and did much to further the nationalization of radio broadcasting in Canada. Following this ruling, the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Act was passed in 1932 and power was vested in the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission to control and regulate radio broadcasting in Canada.

Without the use of transcontinental transmission wires and broadcasting stations, the Commission did not, at the outset, engage in national broadcasting on a substantial scale. In April, 1933, the nucleus of a national network of stations was secured by the taking over and operating of the three stations of the Canadian National Railways at Moncton, Ottawa and Vancouver.

A further phase of national radio broadcasting in Canada was entered upon in 1936, when the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (see pp. 658-661) replaced the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission. The new Act gave the Corporation much wider powers in the operation of the system, and was modelled very largely along the lines of the Act governing the British Broadcasting Corporation. Control of certain technical matters reverted to the Minister of Transport, to be exercised through the Radio Division of the Department. As a result of the War, however, these powers were transferred to the Minister of Munitions and Supply in 1940; in June, 1941, jurisdiction over the activities of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation were transferred to the Minister of National War Services. The present war-time functions of national radio are discussed more fully in the section of this chapter referred to above.

**The Post Office.**—From its earliest days, and by reason of the nature of its services, the Post Office has operated as a government monopoly. At Confederation the provincial systems were transferred to the Dominion and the Post Office Act of 1867 established a service throughout Canada. Administrative statistics appear at pp. 662-668.