

## 2.—Statistics of Telegraph Companies, 1936-40—concluded

Company	Year	Line	Wire	Messages <sup>1</sup>	Offices <sup>2</sup>
		miles	miles	No.	No.
Northern Alberta Railway.....	1936	926	2,262	42,612	40
	1937	926	2,262	46,210	41
	1938	926	2,262	42,148	41
	1939	926	2,262	37,334	41
	1940	926	2,262	44,439	41
Dominion Government Telegraph Service.....	1936	8,893	11,363	328,866	679
	1937	8,929	11,789	425,094	678
	1938	9,049	11,576	413,207	689
	1939	9,080	11,462	394,280	690
	1940	8,625	11,534	386,208	679

<sup>1</sup> Cablegrams not included.      <sup>2</sup> The figures for Table 1 include offices of wireless and cable companies and to that extent are greater than the sums of the items given here for corresponding years.  
<sup>3</sup> Includes sub-offices.      <sup>4</sup> Included with Canadian National; Western Union handles only 'through' business.  
<sup>5</sup> Leased telephone line.

**Submarine Cables.**—Sixteen transoceanic cables have termini in Canada—fourteen of them on the Atlantic Coast and two on the Pacific. In addition, there are eight cables between Atlantic coastal stations in Canada and the United States. The year in which the cable was first demonstrated to be of commercial value was 1866, and up to the present its use has greatly increased. The Atlantic cables are controlled by English and United States interests. The Pacific cable, from Canada to Australia and New Zealand, has been in operation since 1902, and was 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 Communication Co., a company formed to take over all Empire-owned cables, and lease the Empire-owned beam wireless systems. The necessary legislation was passed by the United Kingdom in February, 1929, and by Canada in June, 1929.

## Section 2.—Telephones

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

## Subsection 1.—Systems and Equipment

**Telephone Systems.**—The 3,193 telephone systems existing in 1940 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. They also included 26 municipal systems, the largest operated by the cities of Edmonton, Fort William and Port Arthur. Out of the 2,348 co-operative telephone companies, no fewer than 1,149 were in Saskatchewan alone, 791 in Alberta and 211 in Nova Scotia. The largest among the 533 stock companies operating telephone systems in 1940 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.