

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 3,151 telephone systems existing in 1945 included the three large provincial systems in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and smaller governmental systems in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick, together with the system operated by the Dominion Department of Public Works and National Parks of Canada, Department of Mines and Resources. They also included 24 municipal systems, the largest operated by the cities of Edmonton, Fort William and Port Arthur. Of the 2,368 co-operative telephone companies no fewer than 1,121 were in Saskatchewan alone, 785 in Alberta and 212 in Nova Scotia. The largest among the 527 stock companies operating telephone systems in 1945 were the Bell Telephone Co., and the British Columbia Telephone Co. Over 60 p.c. of the total telephone investment in Canada belongs to the Bell Telephone Co., and their telephones in Quebec and Ontario constitute 57 p.c. of the total for Canada.

**Telephone Equipment.**—During the years 1935-45 there has been an increase of 639,979 in the number of telephones in use, representing an increase of 38 p.c. in telephones per 100 population.

Of the 1,848,794 telephones in Canada in 1945, 1,037,015 or 56 p.c. were operated from automatic switchboards. The remainder 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.

### 2.—Mileages of Pole Line and Wire, and Telephones in Use, 1936-45

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1911-30 will be found at p. 724 of the 1938 Year Book and for 1931-35 at p. 639 of the 1943-44 edition.

Year	Systems	Pole-Line Mileage	Mileage of Wire	Telephones in Use					
				Business	Resi- dential	Rural <sup>1</sup>	Public Pay	Total	Per 100 Popu- lation
				No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
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
1939...	3,212	212,603	5,518,329	406,279	720,043	243,730	27,220	1,397,272	12.3
1940...	3,193	212,680	5,681,594	421,050	762,331	248,982	28,675	1,461,038	12.8
1941...	3,209	213,393	5,882,223	446,739	827,522	257,409	30,476	1,562,146	13.6
1942...	3,192	217,958	6,014,596	463,827	867,307	266,176	30,465	1,627,775	14.0
1943...	3,187	218,702	6,057,880	484,429	901,228	275,202	31,303	1,692,162	14.3
1944...	3,174	220,161	6,108,070	504,791	928,061	286,521	32,550	1,751,923	14.6
1945...	3,151	222,435	6,333,761	531,697	983,074	300,757	33,266	1,848,794	15.3

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