

## 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.

**Telephone Systems.**—The 2,992 telephone systems existing in 1948 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 Federal Department of Public Works and the National Parks of Canada, Department of Resources and Development. They also included 24 municipal systems, the largest of which were operated by the cities of Edmonton, Fort William and Port Arthur. Of the 2,278 co-operative telephone companies 1,047 were in Saskatchewan, 779 were in Alberta and 216 in Nova Scotia. The largest among the 487 stock companies operating telephone systems in 1948 were the Bell Telephone Company and the British Columbia Telephone Company. Over 64 p.c. of the total telephone investment in Canada belongs to the Bell Telephone Company, and their telephones in Quebec and Ontario constitute 59 p.c. of the total number for Canada.

**Telephone Equipment.**—During the years 1939-48 there was an increase of 1,054,596 in the number of telephones in use, representing an advance of 55 p.c. in telephones per 100 population.

Of the 2,451,868 telephones in Canada in 1948, 1,398,821 or 57 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 as equipment becomes available.

### 3.—Mileages of Pole Line and Wire, and Telephones in Use, 1939-48

NOTE.—Figures for 1911-38 will be found in the corresponding tables of previous Year Books beginning with the 1938 Year Book.

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.	miles	miles	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
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
1946....	3,114	228,983	6,770,137	585,982	1,079,769	326,405	33,962	2,026,118	16.5
1947....	3,056	232,054	7,285,681	645,154	1,194,840	354,779	35,824	2,230,597	17.7
1948....	2,992	235,379	7,913,068	701,869	1,328,373	383,227	38,399	2,451,868	19.0

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

The density of telephones in the different provinces is influenced by the urbanization of the population because the number of telephones used for business purposes is much greater in cities and towns than in rural areas.