

Section 2.—Government Control Over Agencies of Communication*

The development and control of radio-communication in Canada from the beginning of the century is outlined in the 1945 Year Book, pp. 644-647.

The present phase of national radio broadcasting in Canada was entered upon in 1936 when, with the passage of the Canadian Broadcasting Act, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation replaced the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission (see p. 842). The Act gave the Corporation wide powers in the operation of the system and gave to the Minister of Transport the technical control of all broadcasting stations and the authority to make regulations for the control of any equipment liable to cause interference with radio reception.

With the exception of those matters covered by the Canadian Broadcasting Act of 1936, radio-communications are now regulated under the Radio Act, 1938, and Regulations. In addition, all radio-communication matters are administered in accordance with the provisions of the International Telecommunication Convention and Radio Regulations annexed thereto, as well as such Regional Agreements as the Inter-American Telecommunications Convention and Inter-American Agreement, and the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement.

By Order in Council P.C. 2526, dated June 8, 1948, responsibility for telegraph and telephone services formerly operated by the Federal Department of Public Works was transferred to the Minister of Transport. The general object of these services is to furnish wire communications for outlying and sparsely settled districts where commercial companies do not enter into the field and where the population must receive adequate communication services in the public interest.

A Crown Company, Canadian Overseas Telecommunications Corporation was created by Act of Parliament (Dec. 10, 1949) to acquire for public operation all external telecommunication assets in Canada, in keeping with the Commonwealth Telegraph Agreement, signed May 11, 1948. This Agreement was designed to bring about the consolidation and strengthening of the radio and cable communication systems of the Commonwealth.

Landline telegraph and telephone tariffs and tolls, charged by companies incorporated by the Federal Government, are regulated by the Board of Transport Commissioners under the provisions of the Railway Act.

Tariffs and tolls charged to the public by individuals or companies, for radio telephone or telegraph communications within Canada, are likewise regulated by the Board of Transport Commissioners, under the provisions of the Railway Act, and the Regulations made under the Radio Act, 1938.

PART II.—RAILWAYS†

The treatment of rail transportation is divided into three Sections dealing, respectively, with steam railways, electric railways and express companies.

Section 1.—Steam Railways

The steam railway is the most important transportation agency from the standpoint of investment and of traffic handled and the statistical field is more completely covered for this form of transportation than for any other.

* Revised under the direction of G. C. Browne, Controller, Telecommunications Division, Department of Transport, Ottawa.

† Revised in the Public Finance and Transportation Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. More detailed information is given in the annual reports of the Division. Certain of the financial statistics are compiled in co-operation with the Department of Transport.