

A Crown company, Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation, was created by Act of Parliament (Dec. 10, 1949) to acquire for public operation certain 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.

Land line 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. Similarly tariffs and tolls charged to the public by individuals or companies for radio telephone communications within Canada are regulated by the Board of Transport Commissioners under the provisions of the Railway Act and the Regulations made under the Radio Act.

PART II.—WIRE COMMUNICATIONS*

Section 1.—Telegraphs

The early history of telegraphic communication in Canada is given in the 1934-35 Year Book, p. 778.

Federal Government Telegraph and Telephone Service. †—The services provided by the Federal Government include: telegraph and telephone services to scattered settlements along the coast of Cape Breton Island; cable services to Campobello, Grand Manan and other islands in the Bay of Fundy, to Prince Edward Island and to a number of small islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; cable connections with Manitoulin Island in Ontario as well as telephone lines thereon; certain lines to outlying districts in northern Saskatchewan; telegraph lines from Edmonton to the Athabasca and Peace River country in Alberta and an extensive telephone system in the latter area.

At Mar. 31, 1955 the Telegraph and Telephone Service comprised 3,277 miles of pole line,* 7,610 miles of wire, 138 miles of submarine cable, and 27 radio stations. It provided telephone service for 2,631 subscribers with telephones of whom 454 were served through lines connected to other company exchanges. The number of telegraph messages handled by this service in 1955 was 275,112. Net revenue from telegraph and telephone sources was \$310,040 and operating expenses amounted to \$544,793.

The Northwest Communication System operates northwesterly from Edmonton to the Yukon-Alaska border and comprises 2,000 miles of pole line, 48,424 circuit-miles for telegraph purposes and 23,256 circuit-miles for telephone purposes. The system provides commercial telephone and telegraph services at airports, settlements and communities in northwest Canada, including Whitehorse, Y.T., and Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, B.C. During 1955 there were 121,758 telephone calls and 62,080 telegraph messages handled. Revenue amounted to \$1,931,077 and expenditure for operating and maintaining the system was \$1,627,650.

Telegraph Systems.—The Canadian telegraph systems are composed of lines owned by the Federal Government and by chartered railway and telegraph companies. The Canadian facilities, in proportion to population, are among the most extensive in the world and are operated under great climatic and geographical difficulties.

* Except where otherwise noted, this Part has been revised in the Public Finance and Transportation Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The Division issues annual reports dealing with telegraph and telephone statistics.

† Revised in the Telecommunications Division, Department of Transport, Ottawa.