

Long-distance services make possible the interconnection of practically any telephone across the country with any other, or with any of the 60,000,000 telephones in the United States. Connections are also available with more than 100 other countries and territories. Within Canada, long-distance service is provided by the separate systems and, on a nationwide scale, by seven major systems which constitute the Trans-Canada Telephone System.

Canadian manufacturing companies produce the greater part of the telephone equipment and materials used in this country. Dependable high quality is maintained and desired uniformity is made possible in operating and maintenance practices across the country.

Telephone Systems.—Telephone systems operating in Canada in 1956 numbered 2,661 as compared with 2,739 in 1955. There was a drop in both the number of small co-operative systems in rural districts and the number of shareholder-owned companies, the former decreasing to 2,172 from 2,214 and the latter to 349 from 373. The largest of the stock companies were The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, operating in Ontario and Quebec with 61 p.c. of all the telephones in Canada, and the British Columbia Telephone Company with 9 p.c. of the total. Four private companies served the Atlantic Provinces, and three systems operated by the respective provincial governments served the Prairie Provinces.

Telephone Equipment.—Because of the insistent demand for increased telephone service, the number of telephones in use in Canada has more than doubled in the past ten years. At Dec. 31, 1956, there were 4,499,325 telephones in service compared with 4,151,678 in 1955 and 2,230 597 in 1947. During 1956 a total of 347,647 telephones were installed, over 56,000 above the previous high in 1955 when installations numbered 291,409. The number of residential telephones and the number of business telephones each rose by 9 p.c. in 1956. Rural telephones were up 6 p.c. and pay telephones 4 p.c. Several exchanges were converted to dial operation in 1956 and by the end of the year 77 p.c. of all telephones in Canada were dial-operated as compared with 74 p.c. in 1955. Pole-line milage and wire milage continue to increase year after year.

3.—Milages of Pole-Line and Wire and Number of Telephones in Use 1947-56

NOTE.—Figures from 1911 are given in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1938 edition.

Year	Systems	Pole-Line Milage ¹	Milage of Wire	Telephones in Use					
				Business	Residential	Rural ²	Public Pay	Total	Per 100 Population
				No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
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
1949	2,971	242,147	8,725,760	762,294	1,481,876	414,061	41,381	2,639,612	19.9
1950	2,912	245,443	9,488,467	813,352	1,611,759	447,691	44,290	2,917,092	21.1
1951	2,904	249,638	10,330,751	864,015	1,735,355	467,171	47,225	3,113,766	22.2
1952	2,888	253,420	11,265,903	920,269	1,888,889	492,753	50,455	3,352,366	23.2
1953	2,793	257,059	12,307,070	988,489	2,053,944	513,061	50,913	3,606,407	24.4
1954	2,788	257,444	13,357,289	1,053,852	2,213,154	538,660	54,603	3,860,269	25.4
1955	2,739	259,784	14,758,160	1,132,436	2,408,959	552,838	57,445	4,151,678	26.6
1956	2,661	269,303	16,410,897	1,229,150	2,625,787	584,484	59,904	4,499,325	28.0

¹ Includes underground conduits and buried cable. exchange lines having more than four parties.

² Includes telephones on rural exchange lines and urban