

Numerous flexible services are provided by Canadian telephone companies for business and industry. Special conference circuits can be quickly arranged, enabling widely scattered business interests to discuss their affairs without the inconvenience and expense of travel. Data transmitting and processing facilities allow rapid exchange of coded information and printed matter between plants and factories, warehouses, retail outlets and many other business and industrial locations. Telephoto and facsimile are other transmission services designed to provide photographic copy direct from the originator. Radio installations link the traveller with the regular telephone network, providing mobile service for such users as highway departments, trucking and construction firms, fire and ambulance services, and police departments. Oil pipeline companies also use the service as part of their communications arrangements to maintain contact between central offices, storage tanks, pumping stations and control units.

Telephone Statistics.—Telephone systems operating in Canada in 1957 numbered 2,637 as compared with 2,661 in 1956. There was a small increase in the number of co-operative systems in rural districts which rose to 2,177 from 2,172. In contrast, the number of shareholder-owned companies decreased to 330 from 349. The largest of the stock companies, The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, operating throughout the greater part of Ontario and Quebec, served 61 p.c. of all the telephones in Canada, and the British Columbia Telephone Company also shareholder-owned, served 9 p.c. of the total.

The number of telephones in use in Canada has almost doubled in the past ten years. At Dec. 31, 1957, there were 4,827,135 telephones in service compared with 4,499,325 in 1956 and 2,451,868 in 1948. The number of residential telephones and the number of business telephones increased by 9 and 6 p.c., respectively, during 1957. Rural telephones were up 4 p.c. and pay telephones 6 p.c. Several exchanges were converted to dial operation in 1957 and by the end of the year 80 p.c. of all telephones in Canada were dial-operated as compared with 77 p.c. in 1956. Pole-line mileage and wire mileage continue to increase year after year.

1.—Mileages of Pole Line and Wire and Number of Telephones in Use, 1948-57

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					Per 100 Popu- lation
				Business	Resi- dential	Rural ²	Public Pay	Total	
	No.	miles	miles	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
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	2,699,612	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
1957.....	2,637	274,334	18,161,444	1,301,631	2,852,875	609,343	63,286	4,827,135	29.1

¹ Includes underground conduits and buried cable.

² Includes telephones on rural exchange lines and urban exchange lines having more than four parties.

The density of telephones in the different provinces is influenced by the urbanization of the population and the number of telephones used for business purposes.