

CHAPTER XIX.—COMMUNICATIONS

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

Communications media in Canada have been shaped to meet the needs of the country. Great networks of telephone, telegraph and radio services, inextricably bound together, provide adequate and efficient service which, in this era of electronic advancement, is under continual technological change and development. The familiar challenges of the country—its size, its topography, its climate, its small population—which have reared their heads in other areas of development, have had to be faced as well in the field of communications. That these have been overcome is evidenced by the fact that today Canada possesses communication facilities and services second to none in the world.

Section 1.—Telecommunications*

During the past half-century, Canada has experienced tremendous economic expansion. Population growth and the advance to new industrial frontiers have been matched by an upward surge in national productivity and general standard of living. Continuing development of Canada is dependent on both individual pioneering and the co-operative efforts of many industries and the telecommunications industry is filling a vital role in this drama of growth.

Business and industry have expanded and ventured into isolated areas assisted and promoted by Canadian telecommunications industries which have anticipated the needs of the future with vast programs of development in virgin territories. Technological development has been particularly important to the extension of telecommunications in Canada. To meet the demands placed upon it, the industry has constantly introduced newer and better equipment, tools and methods of operation. In the growth of urban centres, the development of rural communities and the pioneering of new territory, Canadian telecommunications agencies have constantly sought to provide the highest quality of service for the greatest number of people. The major railways, the hundreds of co-operating telephone companies, the radio and television companies and federal communications organizations work together with a common purpose, building networks of telecommunications from coast to coast. They provide such familiar services as telephone, telegraph, teletype, radio and television, and many other related means of communication; in addition, mutual co-operation has allowed them to satisfy a variety of defence needs.

* Textual data in the introduction of this Section and in Subsection 2 was prepared by The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, Montreal. Statistical material of Subsection 2 and Subsection 3 was revised in the Public Finance and Transportation Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Subsections 1 and 4 to 7 were revised in the Telecommunications and Electronics Branch of the Department of Transport, Ottawa.