

CHAPTER XX.—COMMUNICATIONS

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found on p. viii 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 met 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 through the years have sought to provide the highest quality of service for the greatest number of people. The major railways, the

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