

# 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.*

### Section 1.—Telecommunications\*

Communications media in Canada have been shaped to meet the needs of the country. Great networks of telephone, telegraph, radio and television facilities, 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 which are second to none in the world and which are somewhat unique in structure. On the one hand there is a group of telephone companies acting in concert to provide national services and on the other there are two railway companies providing services, each of which is national in scope. All companies provide a most comprehensive total communications network. Television relay, data exchange, telex, conventional telephone and standard telegraph transmission services are all included, intermeshed and intertwined. The two railway companies, one publicly and the other privately owned, are in competition with the private and public telephone groups. This mixture of public and private ownership—all in competition—has served Canada well and may provide a prototype of what might work internationally as well.

All around us massive strides are being made in communications—dramatic progress has established a virtually instantaneous global communications system but the advance has only begun. INTELSAT, the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium, has opened a fresh approach to the management and development of a world-wide communications system and Canada, as a member of INTELSAT, will play a continuing and influential role in the growth of satellite communications. A proposal recently placed before the Federal Government, spearheaded by a private broadcaster and a space electronics company, put forward a domestic satellite system as the communications vehicle to cover the country from coast to coast and from the border to the Arctic—for message traffic, radio and television—and a commercial communications company, studying the

\* Subsections 1 and 3 to 6 of this Section were revised in the Telecommunications Branch of the Department of Transport, Ottawa; Subsection 2 was revised in the Transportation and Public Utilities Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.