

## 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. xvi 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. These companies provide a most comprehensive total communications network and almost all Canadians from the Arctic Coast to the 49th parallel and from St. John's in Newfoundland to Vancouver in British Columbia can communicate with each other and with the rest of the world by the simple action of twisting a dial or pushing a button. Messages are carried by microwave, tropospheric scatterwave systems, land lines and high frequency radio bands. The great advance in telecommunications during the past few years indicates that machine-to-machine communications will, within a very short time, surpass the volume of man-to-man communications. The use of computers is becoming more and more commonplace and the ability to transmit computer data from one location to any distant location across the country is a tremendous boon to industry and commerce and a benefit to every Canadian.

**Public Telephone Service.**—Telephone service, local and long-distance, is provided by telecommunications companies serving a total of 8,000,000 telephones across Canada. The largest serving organization is the Trans-Canada Telephone System comprising eight

\* A special article on The Development of Telecommunications in Canada, prepared by M. E. Callin, P. Eng., of the Northern Electric Company Limited, Montreal, appears in the 1967 Year Book, pp. 862-869; the present Section deals with telecommunications in Canada today and was prepared by W. M. Lawson of CN Telecommunications, Toronto.