

Subsection 1.—Government Control over Telecommunications Agencies

Telephone and telegraph companies incorporated under the Federal Parliament are subject to the jurisdiction of the Canadian Transport Commission in the matter of rates and practices under the provisions of the Railway Act (see pp. 792-793); other companies are responsible to provincial regulatory bodies. International telegraph and telephone communications are handled subject to the International Telecommunication Convention and the Regulations thereunder and/or under regional agreements. Tolls charged to the public for radio communication service are subject to the provisions of the Regulations made under the Radio Act. Overseas cables landed in Canada are subject to the External Submarine Cable Regulations under the Telegraphs Act.

Radio communications in Canada, except for those matters covered by the Broadcasting Act, are regulated under the Radio Act and Regulations and also under the Canada Shipping Act and Ship Station Radio Regulations. In addition, radio communication matters are administered in accordance with the International Telecommunication Convention and Radio Regulations annexed thereto; the International Civil Aviation Convention; the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea; the Inter-American Telecommunication Convention and the Convention between Canada and the United States of America relating to the operation by citizens of either country of certain radio equipment or stations in the other country; and also in accordance with such regional agreements as the Agreement between Canada and the United States for the Promotion of Safety on the Great Lakes by Means of Radio, the Agreement between Canada and the United States relating to the Co-ordination and Use of Radio Frequencies Above Thirty Megacycles per Second, the Inter-American Radio Agreement, the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement, the Canada-USA Television Agreement and the Canada-USA FM Agreement (see also p. 873).

National radio broadcasting in Canada came under Government regulation in 1932 when the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission was established under the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Act. In 1936 the Canadian Broadcasting Act was passed, replacing the Commission by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to which it gave wide powers in the operation of a national broadcasting system and gave to the Minister of Transport the technical control of all broadcasting stations. In 1958, the Government established a Board of Broadcast Governors which had the function of regulating the establishment and operation of networks of radio and television broadcasting stations, the activities of public and private broadcasting stations and the relationship between them, in the interest of providing a national broadcasting service of high standard, basically Canadian in content and character. On Feb. 7, 1968, legislation was passed by the House of Commons implementing a new broadcasting policy for Canada and amending the Radio Act. For details, see pp. 878-879.

Subsection 2.—Telephone and Telegraph Statistics

Telephone Statistics.—In 1966 there were 2,310 telephone systems operating in Canada compared with 2,374 in 1965; of these systems, 2,127 reported in 1966 and 2,330 in 1965. Co-operative systems in rural districts decreased in number from 2,072 to 1,906 in the same comparison and incorporated companies from 157 to 134. The largest of the incorporated companies, The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, which operates throughout the greater part of Ontario and Quebec and in Newfoundland and the Northwest Territories, served 62 p.c. of all the telephones in Canada in both years and the British Columbia Telephone Company, also shareholder-owned, served 9.7 p.c. of the total in 1966. The number of telephones in use continues to increase at the rate of about 6 p.c. annually.