

364. It will be seen that as far as the figures in the above table go, there were in the countries named 755,239 miles of line, 2,161,731 miles of wire, and that 243,712,399 messages were sent in the years concerned. The total number of messages sent annually throughout the world is probably about 300,000,000.

Summary of preceding table.

365. The total length of telegraph lines in the world may be estimated at about 850,000 miles, of which the United States own the largest portion, viz., about 255,000 miles, or nearly one-third, but though that country possesses about 223,000 miles of lines more than the United Kingdom, the difference in the number of messages sent is small, and the Western Union Telegraph Company of America, which possesses 187,981 miles of line and 715,591 miles of wire, sent 7,260,868 messages less than were sent in Great Britain. There are, it will be seen, only seven countries that have a greater telegraphic mileage than Canada, and with the exception of one or two of the Australasian colonies, no other country possesses the same telegraphic facilities in proportion to population.

Telegraph mileage of the world.

366. The telegraph business of Canada from Quebec, westward, is in the hands of the Great North-Western Telegraph Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and, in the Maritime Provinces, of the Western Union Telegraph Company. The following are particulars concerning them in 1891 :—

Canadian telegraph companies

COMPANY.	Miles of Line.	Miles of Wire.	Number of Messages.	Number of Offices.
Great North-Western Telegraph Co..	17,966	33,505	2,846,030	1,523
Canadian Pacific Railway Co.....	6,700	22,265	1,003,000	750
Western Union.....	3,200	8,034	368,530	209
Total.....	27,866	63,804	4,217,560	2,482

Press messages are not included in the number sent by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, particulars not being available. There is now direct communication by the Canadian Pacific Railway system between Halifax, N. S., and Victoria, B.C.

367. The telephone system of Canada is almost entirely in the hands of the Bell Telephone Company of Montreal, which has 414 offices, 24,647 sets of instruments in use, 5,727 miles of poles and 25,391 miles of wire. The number of messages sent was about 63,695,680. The above figures do not include Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island or British Columbia, all of which are worked by separate companies, particulars of which are not at hand. It has been

The telephone in Canada.