

CHAPTER XX.—COMMUNICATIONS

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

PART I.—GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER AGENCIES OF COMMUNICATION*

The development and control of radio-communication in Canada from the beginning of the century is outlined in the 1945 Year Book, pp. 644-647.

The present phase of national radio broadcasting in Canada was entered upon in 1936 when, with the passage of the Canadian Broadcasting Act, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation replaced the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission (see p. 931). The Act gave the Corporation wide powers in the operation of the system and gave to the Minister of Transport the technical control of all broadcasting stations and the authority to make regulations for the control of any equipment liable to cause interference with radio reception.

Except those matters covered by the Canadian Broadcasting Act, radio-communications are now regulated under the Radio Act and Regulations. In addition, all radio-communication matters are administered in accordance with the provisions of the International Telecommunication Convention and Radio Regulations annexed thereto, as well as such regional agreements as the Inter-American Telecommunications Convention and Inter-American Agreement, and the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement.

By Order in Council, dated June 8, 1948, responsibility for telegraph and telephone services formerly operated by the Federal Department of Public Works was transferred to the Minister of Transport. The general object of these services is to furnish wire communications for outlying and sparsely settled districts where commercial companies do not enter into the field and where the population must receive adequate communication services in the public interest.

A Crown company, Canadian Overseas Telecommunications Corporation was created by Act of Parliament (Dec. 10, 1949) to acquire for public operation all external telecommunication assets in Canada, in keeping with the Commonwealth

* Revised under the direction of G. C. W. Browne, Controller, Telecommunications Division, Department of Transport, Ottawa.