

Telegraph Agreement signed May 11, 1948. This Agreement was designed to bring about the consolidation and strengthening of the radio and cable communication systems of the Commonwealth.

Land-line telegraph and telephone tariffs and tolls charged by companies incorporated by the Federal Government are regulated by the Board of Transport Commissioners under the provisions of the Railway Act.

Tariffs and tolls charged to the public by individuals or companies for radio telephone or telegraph communications within Canada are likewise regulated by the Board of Transport Commissioners under the provisions of the Railway Act and the Regulations made under the Radio Act.

PART II.—WIRE COMMUNICATIONS*

Section 1.—Telegraphs

The early history of telegraphic communication in Canada is given in the 1934-35 Year Book, p. 778.

Federal Government Telegraph and Telephone Service.†—The function of the Telegraph and Telephone Section of the Department of Transport 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. These services include: telegraph and telephone services to scattered settlements along the coast of Cape Breton Island; cable services to Campobello, Grand Manan and other islands in the Bay of Fundy, to Prince Edward Island and to a number of small islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; cable connections with Manitoulin Island in Ontario as well as telephone lines thereon; certain lines to outlying districts in northern Saskatchewan; telegraph lines from Edmonton to the Athabasca and Peace River country in Alberta in addition to an extensive telephone system in the latter area; telegraph and telephone communications around the coast of Vancouver Island, B.C., and adjacent islands; service to fishing, lumbering and mining centres in the interior; and an overland telegraph and telephone line serving communities from Ashcroft, B.C., to Dawson, Yukon Territory.

As at Mar. 31, 1954, the Telegraph and Telephone Service comprised 6,995 miles of pole line, 24,580 miles of wire, 224.5 nautical miles of submarine cable, 50 radio stations and 399 offices. The number of messages handled during the year was 1,497,903, producing a gross revenue of \$1,442,792 and a net revenue of \$1,009,483.

Telegraph Systems.—The Canadian telegraph systems are composed of lines owned by the Federal Government and by chartered railway and telegraph companies. The Canadian facilities, in proportion to population, are among the most extensive in the world and are operated under great climatic and geographical difficulties.

* Except where otherwise noted, this Part has been revised in the Public Finance and Transportation Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The Division issues annual reports dealing with telegraph and telephone statistics.

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