

**CHAUDIÈRE BRIDGE.** The suspension bridge at the Chaudière Falls having become inadequate for the large amount of traffic passing over it, in November 1888, a contract was entered into for the construction of an iron and steel truss bridge, 236 feet in length and 45 feet in width, from outside to outside, giving a clear roadway of 30 feet and two foot paths, one on each side, of 5 feet.

At the close of the fiscal year the contractors were engaged in erecting the false works, and in the delivery of materials for the new structure.

**PORTAGE DU FORT BRIDGE.**—The superstructure of the bridge crossing a branch of the Ottawa, at the village of Portage du Fort, has been entirely rebuilt.

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### TELEGRAPHS.

The various lines owned and operated by the Government, or on behalf of the Government were maintained in a state of efficiency during the year.

The Meat Cove Line was further renewed, and a loop of 5 miles constructed from the Mabou-Cheticamp line to North East Margaree. The line on the north shore of the St. Lawrence was extended from Birch River to Sheldrake, and the cables of the Grosse Ile Quarantine system were taken up and replaced by cables of a heavier type. In August, 1888, Point Pelée was connected with Pelée Island, Lake Erie, by a cable  $8\frac{3}{4}$  miles in length, and connection was made with Leamington, the line being equipped with telephones. Two short sections of cable were laid to connect Wolfe and Howe Islands with Kingston by telephone. The re-poling of the Qu'Appelle-Humbolt line has been completed, as was that of the Prince Albert line, and a loop line was built to Batoche. The line between Clark's Crossing and Saskatoon, 14 miles in length, has been assumed by the Government, and now forms part of the system in the North-West Territories. A telephone system was established between the Mounted Police Barracks and the Government offices at Banff. A line from Victoria to Cape Beale, a distance of about 115 miles, is now in course of construction along the south shore of Vancouver Island. Full details, with tables giving distances, names of operators and salaries paid on the different lines, will be found in the report of the Superintendent of Government Telegraph Lines. (Appendix 13, pages 161-180).

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### SHIP CHANNEL BETWEEN MONTREAL AND QUEBEC.

The work of deepening to  $27\frac{1}{2}$  feet the channel in the St. Lawrence between Montreal and Quebec was continued by the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal to the 31st December, 1888, after which date it was assumed and has been carried on by the Department. A description of the work done from 1st July to 31st December, 1888, will be found in Appendix No. 6, pages 127-130.

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### QUEBEC HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS.

The report of the Harbour Commissioners of Quebec on the works under their charge will be found in Appendix No. 7, page 133.

[1889]