

Communications

The needs of the small and widely scattered population are reflected in the tele-communications system. The public broadcasting system, now incorporated in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as a result of Union, was created by statute in 1939 "in view of the great value of the broadcasting service as a means of information, entertainment and education, and particularly in view of the lack of facilities for disseminating news and information of general interest and importance to the people in many settlements in Newfoundland". Since its establishment the system has been used extensively for sending messages to fishing vessels at sea and to remote areas. The main station of the system is CBN at St. John's, formerly VONF, with a long-wave transmitter of 10,000 watts. Smaller stations at Gander, Corner Brook and Grand Falls, set up by the former Broadcasting Corporation of Newfoundland, are also operated now by the CBC. There are a few small local stations at St. John's owned by a private company and by churches.

The Newfoundland Government paid for the operation in Labrador of wireless stations at Cartwright, Hopedale and Battle Harbour and a number of small wireless offices on the Island during the fishing season. These are now operated by the Federal Department of Transport.

Newfoundland has long had a telegraph service and postal service, the two being interlocked to form a close-knit system (now operated by Canadian National Railways). The main telegraph circuits link the larger centres, running mainly along the railroad, and reach remote places by wire or wireless, telegraph or telephone. Local post offices are also telegraph offices, the same personnel often operating both services. Mail is carried by the railroad and by coastal steamers. Until recently remote areas on coasts closed by ice were inadequately served, mostly by dog team in winter, but in 1947 an air-mail service to cover the northern peninsula in winter was begun.

The oldest operating transatlantic cable was laid to Heart's Content in 1873. Newfoundland is now the landing place for 14 transatlantic cables and the companies concerned also operate 14 cables across to the mainland. There is an FM radio link from Cape Ray in the southwest corner to Cape Breton Island, established during the War and since maintained chiefly for air-traffic control. A commercial long-distance telephone circuit also links the Island with the mainland.

The Press

The first newspaper in Newfoundland was the *Royal Gazette*, published in 1806. Like all early newspapers in North America it contained chiefly Government proclamations. This paper, now the *Newfoundland Gazette*, has been ever since the official publication of the Government of Newfoundland and is published as required, at irregular intervals.