

to Barkerville, & has since been continuously & successfully under the operation of the Department of Public Works of Canada, under the name of the Dominion Government Telegraph Service.

R. B. McMicking was the district superintendent to succeed Mr. Lamb, & held the position until 1879, when he resigned to accept the management of the telephone service of Victoria. He was succeeded by J. Wilson, who still holds the office.

In 1895 a branch wire was run from Ashcroft to Lillooet, 62 miles. Ashcroft is at present the relaying point for business between the outside world & points on the Barkerville & Lillooet lines. The Barkerville line is destined to become an important factor as the connecting link between the north & the rest of the world.

C. A. Sherr is joint manager at Ashcroft for the C.P.R. Telegraph & Dominion Government lines. The telegraph agents for the Government are: C. A. Labourdais, 111-Mile House; R. M. Cornell, 150-Mile House; S. T. Hall, Soda Creek; C. H. Smith (who claims the honor of having sent the first message over the Lillooet extension), Quesnelle; Mrs. A. Bowron, Barkerville; J. Stone, who is somewhat of a pioneer himself; in 1870 he was a marine officer in the British navy; opened an office at the English garrison on San Juan Island on Western Union wires. He also closed this office in 1872, as the ownership of the island was settled, and the British forces evacuated. It will be recalled that the U. S. & Great Britain jointly occupied San Juan Island for a considerable length of time, when, in 1872, it was decided one or the other must pull out. The matter was left to arbitration, the Emperor of Germany being chosen as arbitrator & awarded the island to the U. S. Mr. P. Cummings represents the Government at Pavilion, on the Lillooet extension, & Mr. S. A. McFarlane holds forth at Lillooet.—R. M. Cornell, in the Railroad Telegrapher.

The Late Captain Trott.

Capt. S. Trott, for many years commander of the cable str. Minia, died at the Royal Palm Hotel, Miami, Fla., Mar. 11. He went to Florida to recuperate his failing health about 4 weeks ago, accompanied by Dr. Dorman & Chief Steward Satterley of the Minia & a nurse. The remains have been taken to England for interment.

Capt. Trott was born in Sussex, Eng., in 1832. He started a seafaring life at the age of 17 as an apprentice, & at the age of 27 was in command. He began his career in the cable service by taking charge of the str. Faraday in 1874, & continued as her commander until 1880. During this time he laid the French & Direct Cables, & made some remarkable repairs, which showed him to be a man of rare ability. He astonished the world when in midwinter of 1876 he sailed from London to Nova Scotia, repaired the Direct Cable in a gale of wind & a blinding snow storm, & was back in the Thames again inside of 35 days. As he steamed up the river on his return the marine population who had seen him go to sea were amazed & cheered him lustily. He repeated this great feat the same year in 31 days. Seven unsuccessful attempts having been made to repair the Atlantic cables in winter, at large expense to cable companies, it was considered absolutely impossible to pick up cables during the months from Oct. to May. Capt. Trott, however, proved such an idea was altogether erroneous. His achievements naturally attracted the attention of that able manager & director, H. Weaver, of the Anglo-American Co., & the command of the Minia being vacant in 1880, Capt. Trott's services were secured by him.

During the summer of 1888 he sailed from England to repair the Anglo-American Co.'s

French cable in mid-Atlantic, on the same day the str. Scotia sailed to repair the Direct Cable, also in mid-ocean. Much interest was felt at the time as to which ship would finish first, but Capt. Trott completed his work 3 weeks before the Scotia & according to the published reports the costs of these Direct Co.'s repairs made by the Scotia footed up to \$290,000, while the similar ones effected for the Anglo-American Co. by the Minia did not exceed \$110,000. This is to be taken as the criterion of the rapidity with which the king of cable repairers did his work.

It has been said of him that he knew the bottom of the Atlantic & the position of every cable as well as a cabman knows the streets of a city, & that on one occasion being aware that a steamer, in laying one of the Atlantic cables, having been compelled during a storm to abandon a length of cable worth many thousand dollars, & happening to be in the locality one day several years afterwards, it occurred to him that it would be but little trouble to recover it. He therefore stopped his ship, picked up the cable, & resumed his journey within an hour. On arriving in port he presented the cable to the company to which it belonged, declining to accept any remuneration for his work.

Capt. Trott was a man of positive views & a strict disciplinarian, but just, kind hearted, thoroughly honorable, & esteemed by all who enjoyed the privilege of his acquaintance.—Telegraph Age.

The Yukon Telegraph Line.

H. Bostock, M.P. for Yale & Cariboo, believes the Dominion Government should amplify the project looking to the establishment of telegraphic communication between the Yukon district & the outside world by constructing a line from Dawson to Quesnelle, to connect with the Government telegraph between that point & Ashcroft on the C.P.R. It is now proposed to string a wire from Bennett to Dawson. Connection will be established at Bennett with the line of the White Pass & Yukon Ry., terminating at Skagway, & communication will be had between these points & Vancouver & Victoria by steamer. Mr. Bostock holds that this is a mistake, & he will endeavor to impress the Government with the wisdom of his view. The distance between Quesnelle & Dawson is about 1,200 miles, & the cost of stringing a wire between these points would in round numbers be \$600,000, adopting C. R. Hosmer's estimate of \$500 a mile. Though the amount is large, it is the opinion of Mr. Bostock that the expenditure would be justified. The local advantages would be great, because the settlements along the way, such as Hazelton & Telegraph Creek, would be brought into communication with the outside world & their development advanced. The delay involved in the steamship voyage from Skagway to Vancouver or Victoria would be avoided, an all-Canadian line of communication would be established, & Dawson City would be brought into immediate communication with Ottawa, which would greatly facilitate the good government of the district. It is likely that an enormous investment of British capital will be made in the Yukon, & the interests of the country, as well as of investors, would be materially advanced by establishing a direct connection between Dawson & London.—Globe.

Wireless Telegraphy.

A London cable says: "Great interest was excited at a recent meeting of the Society of Electrical Engineers, by Signor Marconi's wireless telegraphy demonstration. He sent a message from one end of the hall to the other by means of a small apparatus. He said that

operations which had been in progress daily for months between the South Foreland & the lightship at the East Goodwins showed that on no single occasion had communication been interrupted, despite all sorts of bad weather. Messages between the Queen at Osborne & the Prince of Wales on the royal yacht had been transmitted, in some instances, for a distance of 8 miles overland. Intervening hills, although 300 feet higher than the vertical wire at Osborne, offered no obstacle. During his lecture Signor Marconi received a note conveying the permission of the French Government to establish his system between Folkestone & Boulogne. Signor Marconi states that vertical wires, rising to a height of 114 ft., will be sufficient to insure communication between the two coasts."

A later cablegram says: "Marconi's wireless telegraphy will shortly be applied to all the lightships around the British coasts. Its value was strikingly demonstrated in this connection by the sailing ship Elbe, which went ashore on Goodwin Sands in a fog. On the East Goodwin lightship is a wireless telegraph system. The crew telegraphed to the South Foreland lighthouse by this means, & as the lighthouse is in telegraphic communication with coast towns, tugs & lifeboats were soon proceeding to the ship's assistance. This is the first occasion since the installation of the system that its practical use has been put to the test, & it proved highly successful."

Commercial Cable Company.

The annual meeting of the Commercial Cable Co. was held Mar. 6. The balance sheet & accounts for 1898 were approved. The net traffic earnings from cables & land lines (Postal Telegraph Co.) amounted to \$2,024,500.95, an increase of \$107,409.83. Out of the balance to the credit of revenue account there has been set aside \$450,000 to the various reserves. The reserve fund now amounts to \$3,037,103.43. The following directors were elected:—J. W. Mackay, J. G. Bennett, G. G. Howland, W. Jay, G. G. Ward, Sir W. Van Horne, E. C. Platt, Lord Strathcona & Mount Royal, C. R. Hosmer, T. Skinner, C. H. Mackay, A. B. Chandler, D. Clark. The directors met & elected the following officers:—J. W. Mackay, President; G. G. Ward, Vice-President & General Manager; C. R. Hosmer, Vice-President; A. B. Chandler, Vice-President; C. H. Mackay, Vice-President; E. C. Platt, Treasurer; A. Beck, Secretary; J. O. Stevens, Assistant Secretary.

Telegraphing & 'Telephoning at Once.

On the matter of simultaneous telegraphing & telephoning on a single wire on the Great Northern Ry., U.S.A., C. P. Adams, Superintendent of Telegraph of the system, recently wrote to this effect: "Owing to other matters I find I shall be compelled to postpone all further experiments in this line for the present. The wire on which we are now working the simultaneous telegraph and telephone apparatus is known as the St. Paul & Great Falls circuit, being a no. 9 iron wire, & the distance between the two points, Carman, Minn., and Larimore, N. D., is 53 miles. There are also on the same line of poles 6 to 8 wires the entire distance, but notwithstanding this the telephone has in every way given satisfactory results. There are, of course, many detailed matters which will have to be remedied in order to make it entirely practical for everyday use, particularly in the matter of signaling, which no doubt can be done in a number of ways. The method used by me in this experiment is that laid down by Van Rysselberghe for a single wire circuit, in which I am using graduating coils, condensers, etc."—Telegraph Age.