

west of the principal meridian; thence in a south-westerly direction to the fourth base line, at a point west of Long Lake. Several branch lines were also surveyed connecting the above described lines with the City of Winnipeg.

To the west of the Province of Manitoba, a line was surveyed westerly to the neighborhood of Fort Ellice, another north-westerly to Bird Tail Creek, in the direction of Livingstone. These latter surveys are incomplete.

#### SURVEYS IN THE WOODLAND REGION.

Early last winter a survey, with soundings, was instituted on Lake Nipissing, to determine the most suitable point for connecting the subsidized portion of the Canada Central Extension with the navigable waters of the Lake.

During the past summer a trial location survey has been made to the north of Lake Nipissing. The line surveyed commences at South-east Bay, a point which had been suggested as the western terminus of the Canada Central Extension, and follows generally the north-eastern shore of the lake to the 24th mile; thence, leaving the vicinity of the lake, the line follows for a short distance the valley of Smoke River, reaching the valley of Sturgeon River at the 37th mile. The line continues closely along the left bank of that river. The party ceased operations for the season at the 63rd mile from the starting point.

Another party is at present engaged in exploring the country intervening between Sturgeon River and Spanish River, the object being to find a short practicable route to Sault Ste. Marie, utilizing as great a distance as possible of the ultimate main line from Lake Nipissing to the Thunder Bay section.

Trial location surveys have been carried on during the summer from Section 25, *viâ* Dog Lake, to Nepigon; from Nepigon to the northerly end of Long Lake, and thence easterly. Only partial returns of these surveys have as yet been received.

#### TELEGRAPH LINES.

No new work has been executed on the Pacific Telegraph Line within the year. Since the last annual report the contract with Mr. F. J. Barnard, for the section between Edmonton and a point in British Columbia, has been cancelled.

The telegraph line for the whole distance between Fort William and Edmonton, with the Winnipeg Branch, in all 1,219 miles, has been operated during the past summer. Some sections of it are not, however, maintained with such care as to render the line as serviceable as it might otherwise be.

#### CONSTRUCTION FROM LAKE SUPERIOR TO MANITOBA.

##### *Fort William to English River, 113 Miles, Contract 25.*

The grading and bridging remaining unfinished at the date of my last report on this section contract 25, were completed early in the present year, and the track has been laid for the whole distance.

The ballasting has been fairly done for about half the distance, but the remainder has only had one lift.

Before this section can be considered in a satisfactory condition for traffic, an additional lift of ballast will be necessary. The line has been used during the past summer for the transport of rails and contractors' supplies.