

The Bell Co. is about to build its first long distance lines in Manitoba, running westerly from Winnipeg as far as Brandon, connecting Portage la Prairie, McGregor, Carberry & other intermediate points. A line will also be built from Carberry to Neepawa, thence to Minnedosa. It is said connection will be made with U.S. lines.

The recently completed Dominion Government telegraph line between Kamloops & Nicola, B.C., has been changed to a telephone line, & offices have been opened at Quilchena, Nicola Lake & Lower Nicola, with a rate of 25c. for a 10 words message. For conversation the charge is 50c. for 3 minutes, & 10c. for each additional minute.

At the recent annual meeting of St. Martin's Telephone Co. in New Brunswick the following were elected: President, J. McLeod, M.P.P.; Vice-President, W. H. Allan; Secretary Treasurer, A. W. McMackin; other directors, C. M. Bostwick, C. D. Trueman, W. E. Skillen. It is said the line will be considerably improved this season.

At the recent Napanee, Ont., assizes, the case of Shanks vs. the Bell Telephone Co., a claim for injuries sustained by plaintiff's eight-year-old boy, was settled, defendant paying \$2,250 into court for the child, & \$600 for the father. The child lost hearing & sight on the left side through the upsetting of a forge containing red-hot coals, placed by Co.'s employees on a street at Smith's Falls.

In the Bell Co.'s Ottawa exchange, the bell-ringing system has given place to automatic signalling telephones, the interesting feature of which is that instead of ringing the bell as formerly, the subscriber has only to put the 'phone to his ear. The act of removing it from the hook flashes a signal lamp at central, & a prompt response is made. When the 'phone is replaced on the hook, another signal is given which notifies central that the conversation is ended.

What is said to be the longest submarine telephone cable in the U.S. has been laid through the Straits of Mackinac, on a line connecting Marquette with Detroit, & other cities to the eastward. The length of the submarine portion of the line is not stated in the press despatches, which are the source of our information. This cable was laid by the Michigan Telephone Co., & tests of it are said to have been highly satisfactory. It is said that at the time of the tests conversation was carried on between Marquette, Mich., & Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Bell Co. has, until recently, on its long distance lines had a time unit of 3 minutes for business east of Toronto, & 5 minutes on business west. A three-minute unit has now been adopted throughout Canada in harmony with the most common practice in other countries. The Michigan Co. has, however, adopted a one-minute unit. Experience shows that a very great proportion of conversations do not extend beyond 2 or 3 minutes. On 5-minute unit business the overcharge was formerly charged at half the initial rate for each period of 5 minutes or fraction thereof. Now, overtime is charged per minute.

A cheap fence telephone system for farmers has been in use in Texas for a long time. At Midland, on the southeastern foot of the great Staked Plain, a large number of outlying cattle ranches are connected with the city telephone system in this manner. Some of the lines are 25 to 50 miles in length, & one is said to be 100 miles long. The distance, owing to the angles, is usually twice the air line length. During ordinary weather they render perfect service, in damp weather they work rather poorly, owing to lack of insulation. The practicability of this plan has been known in that section for some years. It is said to have had its origin in Australia.

The Erie R.R. is equipping a large number of its block signal stations with telephones. On the Erie, electrical communication between block signal cabins is had by means of bells, with the usual English bell code, so that, except where the signal cabin is at or near a station where the Morse telegraph is established, the signalmen have no way of communicating with one another over the wire except by the limited vocabulary of the bell code. The telephones are introduced to make up for this deficiency. They are worked over the same wire which is used for bell signals. The report that the Erie would abandon the bells in some or all of its cabins, & use nothing but telephones for block signalling, is untrue.

The Nova Scotia Telephone Co. has been extending & improving its service for some time past. The whole of that part of the province through which the wires of the Co. are laid now enjoys the benefits derivable from a metallic circuit. The Co. has spent so much money throughout the province in its improvement works, that it has not hitherto had as much funds available for the city of Halifax as the users of the service there could have wished. However, they will have the reward of their patience soon, as the Co. now proposes to install very extensive improvements, one item alone being a \$40,000 switch board at the exchange which will greatly facilitate the handling of the growing traffic over the Co.'s wires.—Maritime Merchant.

New subscribers to the Bell Co.'s exchange outside of the mile limit in Toronto, are being charged an increased rate. The Co.'s agreement with the city, providing for specified rate, having expired, the Co. has reinstated the old extra mileage rate for 'phones over a mile from the exchange. The Co. is not increasing its rates to old subscribers, it is only the new ones that are charged the higher price. In a recent suit against the Gas Co. in Toronto, Judge MacLennan decided that the Co. need not sell gas to everyone who applied for it, even although they were willing to pay the price asked by the Co. Under this precedent the Bell Co. may not be obliged to rent a telephone to anyone who applies for it, unless he is willing to pay the Co.'s rate.

Dominion Government Telegraph Lines.

The following table shows the various telegraph lines comprising the Dominion Government Telegraph service:

Points Connected.	Land Lines. Miles.	Cables. Knots.	No. of Offices.
Newfoundland.			
Port au Basque—Cape Ray.	14	.....	2
Nova Scotia.			
North Sydney—Meat Cove (with loops)	147½	.....	13
Across Bras d'Or Channel .....	.....	.....	
St. Ann's Harbour .....	.....	.....	
Ingonish Harbour .....	.....	.....	2
Meat Cove—St. Paul's Island .....	.....	.....	
On St. Paul's Island .....	.....	.....	7
Mabou—Cheticamp	63	.....	
Barrington—Cape Sable	16	.....	Leased.
Across Bear Point Channel .....	.....	.....	
Lt. House Channel .....	.....	.....	
New Brunswick.			
Chatham—Escominac	42	.....	5
Bay of Fundy System:			
Eastport—Campobello .....	.....	1½	8
On mainland, Eastport .....	.....	.....	
On Campobello Island	7½	.....	
Campobello—Grand Manan .....	.....	7½	
On Grand Manan Island	25½	.....	
Grand Manan—Cheney's Island .....	.....	.....	2
On Cheney's Island .....	.....	.....	
Cheney's Island—Whitehead Island .....	.....	.....	

Points Connected.	Land Lines. Miles.	Cables. Knots.	No. of Offices.
Quebec.			
Bay St. Paul—Chicoutimi.....	92	.....	6
Branch St. Alexis to L'Anse St. Jean	40	.....	1
Murray Bay—Big Romaine	628½	.....	40
Across Saguenay River.....	.....	1½	
Bersimis to Manicouagan.....	12	.....	
Manicouagan to Godbout	26	.....	7
Quarantine System :			
Quebec—L'Ange Gardien	13	.....	
L'Ange Gardien Orleans Is- land .....	.....	2	10
On Orleans Island.....	29½	.....	
Orleans Island— Isle Réaux	2	.....	
Isle Réaux	2½	.....	9
Isle Réaux—Grosse Isle.....	2	.....	
On Grosse Isle (all told).....	3½	.....	
Anticosti System :			44½
Gaspé—L'Anse à Fougère.....	28	.....	
L'Anse à Fougère—Anticosti	223½	.....	
On Anticosti Island .....	.....	21	55½
Anticosti—Long Point, Min- gan.....	.....	.....	
Meat Cove (C.B.)—Magdalen Is- lands	83	.....	
On Magdalen Islands .....	.....	.....	9
Ontario.			
Pelee Island System :			
Leamington—Point Pelee	12	.....	9½
Point Pelee—Pelee Island.....	.....	.....	
On Pelee Island.....	12½	.....	
North-west.			
Qu'Appelle—Edmonton and St. Albert	607½	.....	15
Moosejaw—Wood Mountain.....	90½	.....	2
British Columbia.			
Ashcroft—Barkerville.....	276½	.....	8
Kamloops—Lower Nicola	67	.....	*
Albarni—Cape Beale	57	.....	*
Victoria—Cape Beale.....	118	.....	7
Nanaimo—Comox and Alberni.....	110½	.....	8
Ashcroft—Lillooet.....	62	.....	1
Yukon.			
Lake Bennett—Dawson & Atlin..	639	.....	*
Total	3,514½	207½	164½

* The number of offices on these lines are not given.
† Not including lines marked thus *.

The line from Port au Basque, N'f'd., to Cape Ray is operated under agreement with the Anglo-American Telegraph Co. The Ashcroft-Barkerville line & the Victoria-Cape Beale line in B.C. are operated by the C.P.R. Co.'s telegraphs, which retains the revenue, the Government reimbursing the excess of expenditure over revenue.

Work is going on on the completion of telegraph communication all around the coast of Cape Breton, by filling in the gap of about 40 miles between Cheticamp & Meat Cove.

On the north shore of the St. Lawrence the line from Murray Bay to Big Romaine, 628½ miles, is being extended to Chateau Bay opposite Belle Isle, a further distance of 315 miles, the contract calling for its completion by June 30.

During the past fiscal year, the following lines were built: Alberni to Cape Beale, Vancouver Island, 57 miles; Kamloops to Lower Nicola, B.C., 67 miles. This line has since been converted into a telephone line.

The expenditure on the various lines during the past fiscal year was \$88,503.59, & the revenue \$10,472.99.

The line now being built from Quesnelle, B.C., to Atlin, to connect with the line to the Yukon, is expected to be completed by Nov. J. B. Charleson, who is in charge of construction, stated at Vancouver recently, that he had inspected the line as far as constructed, to 90 miles beyond Quesnelle and 45 miles beyond Blackwater, or 310 miles from Ashcroft. There were 50 men engaged on the Ashcroft end, besides packers. Two lines have been strung across the Fraser River 3 miles above Quesnelle. They stretch 1,200 ft. from shore to shore, without supports.