

the management. As a result, an agreement was reached by which some advances were given and other differences settled.

The Canadian Northern Telegraph Co. has taken over from the Canadian Northern Ry. Construction Department the wires west of Erwood on the Prince Albert extension, and has opened a commercial office at Melfort. Communication with Prince Albert is expected before July 1 next.

The Dominion DeForrest Wireless Telegraph Co. has been incorporated under the Ontario Companies' Act, with a capital of \$1,200,000 and offices at Ottawa, to establish wireless telegraph stations. The provisional directors are: L. J. Lemieux, F. J. Humphrey, Joe. Cardinal, A. and E. Brassard, Montreal.

The Fessenden Wireless Telegraph Co. of Canada is the title under which the incorporation of a company is sought at the current session of the Dominion Parliament, to "establish and operate a business of telegraphic or other electric or magnetic communication by means of a wireless or other system."

The proposal to extend the British-West India cable now operated between Halifax, N.S., and Bermuda, to Barbados and St. Lucia, is being regarded with favor in those islands, and a movement has been started in British Guiana, on the mainland of South America, to have the extension carried to Georgetown.

Following are statistics of the telegraph lines of the Dominion for the year ended June 30, 1904:—

	Length of line miles.	Length of cond'rs miles.	No. of offices
G.N.W. Telegraph Co.	18,286	35,721	1,455
C.P.R. Telegraphs.	10,018	45,943	1,152
Western Union Tele. Co. .	2,784	13,069	221
Dominion telegraph lines .	6,270	6,270	327

The Commercial Cable Co. has obtained the approval of the Dominion Government to the landing of an additional cable at its station at Canso, N.S. The first of the company's cables was laid by the cable steamer Faraday in 1881, and the proposed cable will be the fifth it will own. The new cable, which will be used principally for stock exchange work, will be made and laid by one of the British cable construction companies.

The first report of the Mackay Companies, which owns the Commercial Cable Co., and shares in other cable, telephone, and telegraph companies in the United States, Canada and Europe, has been issued. Its capital is \$100,000, one-half preferred and the other half common stock, of which there are outstanding \$35,968,700 of preferred, and \$41,380,400 of common stock. It has \$820,323.70 in cash and cash assets, and has no debts. The income from investments is more than sufficient to pay quarterly dividends of 1% on the preferred stock, and semi-annual dividends of 1% on the common stock. The profit and loss account shows receipts of \$1,643,676.93 from investments including the Commercial Cable Co., and from 14,692 shares in 30 other cable, telegraph and telephone companies, of which the dividends paid absorbed \$1,559,843.28, and expenses \$20,035.01, leaving a balance in hand of \$63,798.69.

The C.P.R. Telegraph Department has arranged to complete its underground system between its main office at Montreal and the Windsor Street station, and will also carry out the following construction work during the year: String an additional wire from Montreal to St. Agathe, Que., 60 miles, for commercial business. Install a complete storage battery plant at Fort William, Ont. String additional copper wire from Winnipeg to Swift Current, Assa., 511 miles. String iron wires from Brandon, Man., to Broadview, Assa., 132 miles; Calgary, Alta., to Cranbrook, B.C., 275 miles; Cranbrook to Crow's Nest, B.C., 99 miles, and from Sicamous to Revel-

stoke, B.C., 46 miles. String a copper wire from Dunmore to Laggan, B.C., 302 miles; and from Laggan to Revelstoke, B.C., 146 miles. String two copper wires from Winnipeg to Emerson, Man. This will give a total of 1,089 miles of new copper wire and 612 miles of new iron wire. In addition to this there will be new pole lines and wires erected along new lines of railway under construction as fast as the rails are laid. These lines include the Guelph and Goderich Ry., the line between Toronto and Sudbury, Ont.; and the extensions in the Northwest. In addition to the new work a large amount will be expended for construction and general repairs to existing lines.

General Telephone Matters.

The telephone system at Prince Albert, Sask., is being converted to a metallic circuit system.

The Vernon, B.C. Board of Trade is promoting the formation of a local company to establish a telephone system there.

The Merchants' Telephone Co., Montreal, denies the press reports that it is about to dispose of its business to the Bell Telephone Co.

The Manitoba Government is investigating the idea of establishing a system of telephones in the province, to be owned by the Government.

The British Columbia Telephone Co. has submitted a proposition to the various towns in the Okanagan Valley to establish a telephone system there.

The Telephone Company of Prince Edward Island has constructed a steel bridge on which to carry all the cables coming into its exchange building at Charlottetown.

The local telephone system at Nanaimo, B.C., has been absorbed by the British Columbia Telephone Co. It is proposed to put in a metallic circuit and to otherwise improve the line.

The Brantford, Ont., city council has decided to re-open the local telephone question by calling for offers for the establishment of a telephone system there to compete with the Bell system.

The bill incorporating the Northwest Telephone Co. has been passed by the House of Commons, a clause being inserted compelling the company to deliver messages originating on any connecting lines.

The Kamarouska Telephone Co. has had its capital increased to \$74,000, and has been given authority to issue bonds to the extent of two-thirds of its immovable property, under the provisions of the Quebec Companies' Act.

A company has been formed at New Liskeard, Ont., with a capital of \$25,000, to construct telephone lines throughout the Temiskaming district. The company has not yet been registered. D. Stewart, New Liskeard, is Secretary-Treasurer of the provisional organization.

The Department of Marine has issued a notice detailing the marks placed to show the position of the telephone cable recently laid between Vancouver Island and the mainland of Washington, U.S., and cautioning mariners against anchoring their vessels in the vicinity.

The Fort William, Ont., town council will apply at the current session of the Ontario Legislature for an act confirming a number of by-laws, among them being one for the purpose of raising \$11,500 on debentures for the purpose of improving and extending the municipal telephone system.

The Crow's Nest Pass Electric Light and Power Co., which operates a telephone system

in Fernie, B.C., has purchased the rights of the British Columbia Telephone Co. to operate in that district. This will end the litigation which had been initiated by the Fernie town council to stop the B.C.T. Co. erecting its poles in the town.

The Bell Telephone Co. is offering to establish a rural telephone system in Waterloo county, Ont., at \$15 an instrument, and 5 cents a call to telephones on the Berlin and Waterloo exchanges, if an instrument is guaranteed for every mile of line built. The farmers who met the company's representative expressed an opinion that there should not be any charge for the calls to Berlin and Waterloo.

The People's Telegraph and Telephone Co., Ltd., has been incorporated under the Ontario Companies' Act, with a capital of \$40,000, and offices at Maynooth, Ont., to carry on a telegraph and telephone business in the northern part of Hastings county, and the southern portion of Nipissing district. The provisional directors are: W. J. Sergeant, S. Harryett, Bancroft, Ont.; W. J. Fitzgerald, T. P. Netterville, D. Smith, Maynooth, Ont.

The large number of petitions which have been presented to the House of Commons asking that an act be passed giving telephone companies power to erect poles on streets only with the approval of the local municipality, initiated a discussion in the course of which the Premier stated that perhaps the time had come when they should have some general law to regulate telephone companies and especially to guarantee and protect the interchange of traffic.

The House of Commons has appointed a committee, of which Hon. Sir Wm. Mulock has been appointed chairman, to investigate the telephone question in Canada. At the opening meeting of the committee, the Postmaster-General suggested the consideration of a plan along the lines of that adopted in Great Britain, where the trunk lines are owned and operated by the Government. He also suggested the consideration of a plan for providing telephones by local municipalities somewhat on the lines adopted in Sweden, where in certain towns telephones are provided in every house, the cost being met out of rates.

Bell Telephone Company of Canada.

The report for the year 1904 presented at the annual meeting in Montreal, Feb. 23, stated that 8,988 subscribers were added during the year, the total number of sets of instruments now earning rental being 66,160. The company owns and operates 475 exchanges and 789 agencies. 1,242 miles of wire were added to the long distance system in 1904. The long distance lines owned and operated by the company comprise 32,211 miles of wire on 7,866 miles of poles. 20,000 shares of new stock were offered to the shareholders at 25% premium, with the option of paying for them in full or in quarterly instalments. 16,845 shares were paid up in full. \$1,916,960 was received during the year on account of stock, and \$479,240 for premium thereon. The latter amount in accordance with the company's usual custom, has been carried to contingent account. From the balance of revenue account, \$154,323.96, \$35,565.26 was carried to insurance reserve account; \$23,958.25 to accident insurance reserve account, and \$50,000 to contingent account; leaving balance of revenue to be carried to 1905, \$44,800.45.

RECEIPTS.

Exchanges (less unearned rentals)	\$1,980,185.51
Long distance lines	761,991.15
Private lines	14,735.48
Miscellaneous	176,741.57

\$2,933,653.71