

Speaking of the B.C. Ex. Co., the Express Gazette says, the present company was established in 1864 and from that date to 1871 was known as "Barnard's Cariboo Express." The headquarters for the stages from 1871 to 1884 were at Yale, at that time the head of navigation on the Fraser river for steamers from Victoria. Reconstruction of a bridge across the Thompson river at Ashcroft being completed in 1886, it was selected as a desirable point for stage headquarters. In 1871 the name was changed to the "British Columbia Express Company." It is probably the oldest and longest stage line in operation on the continent of North America. The entire distance of the road is 287½ miles, or 575 miles for the round trip from Ashcroft to Barkerville and back. The stage line requires 80 head of horses to operate it, and 50 rigs; seven or eight drivers are required to meet the traffic demands. The record time on the trip was made a year or two ago by a mem-

ber of the Provincial Government then in power, who, with special stages and drivers, made the round trip and back in 74 hours' actual travelling. In this time 575 miles were covered, and the record has never yet been beaten. The company runs a number of branch stage lines also, such as the Lillooet, Ashcroft Road, the Dog Creek, and other lines upon which a regular stage line is operated. Only H.M. mails, passengers and express freight are carried by the B.C. Express Company.

Telegraph and Cable Matters.

The Commercial Cable Co. has declared a quarterly dividend of 2%, payable in New York Oct. 1.

The cost of operating the British telegraph service for 1902-3 was £4,317,371. This was £593,506 more than the receipts. If interest

on the £10,867,644 spent in acquiring the service was added, the deficit would be £892,395.

The number of telegraph offices in Canada on Aug. 1 was stated to be 2,608, distributed as follows: British Columbia, 109; Manitoba, 167; New Brunswick, 129; Northwest Territories, 112; Nova Scotia, 184; Ontario, 1,211; Quebec, 696.

A cable 3,000 ft. in length has been laid between Brier island and Westport, N.S., and gives telegraphic and telephonic connection between the island and the mainland. The shore connection is maintained over the Westport and Digby telephone line.

The Western Union Telegraph Co. proposes to operate a district messenger service in connection with its lines, and free call boxes will be fitted up in offices, etc. The service will be put in operation in connection with the company's office at Halifax, N.S.

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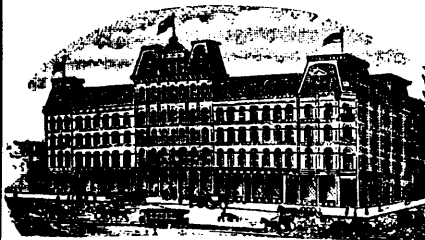
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