

## THE CANADIAN ELECTRICAL NEWS.

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JNO. HORN, Editor. HART BROTHERS & CO., Publishers.

Correspondence on all Telegraphic, Telephonic or Electric Light subjects is solicited.

Readers are cordially invited to communicate their views and opinions on all topics within the province of this journal.

Items relating to Telegraphy, Telephony, Electric Light, or Inventions, will be thankfully received.

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MONTREAL, MAY 1, 1884.

### THE TELEGRAPH LINES OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

COSTA RICA has had a line between Puntarenas, its Pacific port, and the capital, San Jose, since about the year 1866. Within a few years the capital has been connected by wire with the Atlantic port, Limon, and in July, 1879, communication with their neighbor, Nicaragua, was established. There are about 20 offices in the Republic.

NICARAGUA has about 25 offices. The lines were built in 1875. Tariff 20c. for 10 words. All of the principal cities and towns are in the circuit, including the two Pacific ports, San Juan del Sur and Corinto, and the Atlantic port of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown. The lines are about 500 miles extension in all.

The Central and South American Telegraph Company have a cable station at San Juan del Sur, which affords Nicaragua and Costa Rica communication with the world.

HONDURAS has in operation 1,800 miles of wire with about 40 offices. A net-work radiates from the capital, Tegucigalpa, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific ports of the Republic, as well as the principal towns. The tariff is 25c. between all offices. These lines were begun in 1877, under the superintendence of Mr. Maury, formerly superintendent of telegraphs in Salvador. Mr. Eusebio Toledo is the present superintendent. He is a native of Guatemala, where he learned telegraphy under Mr. Stanley McNider.

SALVADOR was the second of the Central American Republics to employ the telegraph, having commenced its network of wires in 1870, under the administration of President Duenas. The first lines were built by Chas. H. Billings, an American, followed by Stanley McNider, of this city, in 1871-2. The service is extended to every town of importance in the Republic, and connects with that of Honduras and Guatemala. Tariff 25c. There are over 60 offices. The head office is in the capital, San Salvador. The superintendent is Guillermo Padilla, a native of Salvador, and one of its first operators. There are about 1,200 miles of wire in operation.

The Central and South American Telegraph Co.'s cable has its most important Central American Station at La Libertad, the post nearest the capital. This station gives to Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras their means of electrical communication with the rest of the world.

GUATEMALA.—The first line was built in 1873 by Stanley McNider, of Montreal, along with the lines since constructed, comprising 1,200 miles of wire, with 60 offices, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific ports with all of the important towns. Four lines run from the capital, Guatemala, one to each point of the compass. The service was under the superintendence

of Mr. S. McNider until Feb. 7, 1881. A correspondent of the San Francisco *Evening Post*, in a letter published some time in 1880, says of these lines:—

"A telegraph service equal to any in any country in the world connects the capital with every town of any note throughout the Republic, as well as with the neighboring States of Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

"The service is in every respect the best I have ever seen outside of the Eastern States. Rates are cheap, and the entire system is a credit to its originator and manager."

The originator of the system was Senor Don Jose Maria Samayoa, principal minister under the administration of Granados, and of the present President, General Barrios. To the latter belongs the credit of having ordered the construction of the greater part of the lines in operation. The tariff is 25c.

All the lines in Central America were built by and are the property of the Government, and are worked for their account, the employees receiving salaries varying from \$20 to \$50 per month in way offices. In the capitals higher salaries rule, but are not of a nature to induce foreign talent to seek them. In Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua the system is Morse pure and simple, with only such additions as the Spanish language has demanded in the alphabet. These additions were made by Mr. McNider.

In Costa Rica an alphabet manufactured by native talent of the latter Republic out of the Morse has been adopted, and the details of service are a species of guess work from the same source.

The continuation of this article giving the lines of South America, will be given in our next number.

### PERSONAL.

MARRIED.—At 112 West 42nd street, New York, on the 23rd of April, 1884, Emile A. Hart, of the firm of Hart Brothers & Co., of Montreal, Seigneur of Beaucour, Assistant Editor and Proprietor of the CANADIAN ELECTRICAL NEWS, to Natalie, eldest daughter of M. L. Soixas, Esq., of New York.

### ADVERTISERS.

ADVERTISERS of Electrical supplies, as well as manufacturers and dealers, should try to reach the enormous demand springing up in Canada for their goods. No better medium for advertising their specialties has ever presented itself. Remember this paper goes to every point from one end of the Dominion to the other, and is the only journal representing the interests of the Telegraph, Telephone and Electric light.

WE return thanks to Sup. J. P. Abernethy, of Cleveland, Ohio, for a copy of "The Modern Service of Commercial and Railway Telegraphy in Theory and Practice," a work of 333 pages. We consider it invaluable to learners as well as to all telegraphers who aspire to become proficient commercial or railway operators. The book is handsomely bound in cloth with gold title designs on side and back, and is sold at \$2.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

THE VANDEBOELE System of Electric Lighting, a very neatly printed pamphlet, explanatory of their system.

HOLMES, BOOTH & HAYDEN, New York, five nice samples of fire proof, insulated, electric light and other wires, made from pure Lake Superior copper.