

STATISTICS ON TELEGRAPHS AND THE TELEPHONES

*Canada has Largely Increased
use of Latter according to
Records Tabled by Minister
of Railways.*

EXPRESS FIGURES ALSO

Statistics relative to express, telephone, and telegraph companies doing business in Canada covering the year which closed on June 30, 1918, with comparative figures for the previous twelve months, were tabled in the Commons by Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Railways. The figures were compiled by the Statistical Branch of the Department of Railways.

THE EXPRESS BUSINESS.

Those dealing with the express companies show that the operating mileage on June 30, 1918, was 43,247 in Canada, which was about the same as in the previous year, while foreign mileage was 19,296, an increase of about 3,000,000 miles. The cost of property and equipment of express companies was \$1,194,246.

Gross receipts totalled \$18,680,092, as compared with \$16,836,373 in the previous twelve months, while the net operating revenue was \$450,243, as against \$1,096,111 for the year ending June 30, 1917. The net corporate income of the express companies was \$443,535.

The financial paper of the express companies is calculated as follows:—

Money orders—	1917.	1918.
Domestic	\$239,754.49	\$267,154.73
Foreign	20,726.73	19,790.55

Travellers' cheques—	1917.	1918.
Domestic	4,171.10	1,698.67
Foreign	2,269.23	4,311.86

C.O.D.	1917.	1918.
.....	133,813.25	157,933.75

Salaries and wages paid in 1917 were \$4,864,669.92, and in 1918 were \$6,224,681.28, or 66.55 per cent of operating expenses.

The number of express offices in Canada in 1917 was 3,636, and in 1918, 3,636. In 1917 a dividend of 10 per cent, amounting to \$200,000, was paid by the Dominion Express Company and a similar amount applied to reserves, leaving a credit balance of \$522,123 for the year. Dividends were not declared by the express companies in 1918 nor were any sums set apart as reserves.

DEVELOPMENT OF TELEPHONES.

Telephone figures indicate a substantial development of the telephone business for the year ending June 30, 1918. The number of reporting units increase from 1,695 in 1917 to 2,007 in 1918. The growth was greater in Saskatchewan than in any other province. The number of reporting units by provinces were as follows: Prince Edward Island, 32; Nova Scotia, 143; New Brunswick, 31; Quebec, 173; Ontario, 528; Manitoba, 38; Saskatchewan, 727; Alberta, 8; British Columbia, 14; Yukon, 1.

It is noted that the Governments of Alberta and Manitoba own practically all of the telephone systems in the two provinces.

Saskatchewan is also a large owner of telephones, but there are in addition in that province about 1,000 lines in the hands of private organizations. The capitalization of telephone companies operating in Canada is given as \$104,368,627, an increase of \$10,000,000 as compared with 1917.

Earnings of the telephone companies in the last twelve months under review amounted to \$22,753,289, while operating expenses totalled \$13,644,524. Net earnings as represented in the difference

PROVINCIAL CO-OPERATION FOR VITAL STATISTICS

*Regulations which will govern sending in of Marriages,
Births and Deaths to Dominion Bureau by
Provincial Authorities.*

Regulations made with a view of preventing duplication in methods of compiling and publishing vital statistics of the Dominion, following the conferences of June and December, 1918, are embodied in an Order in Council passed on April 22, which also declares that the Model Vital Statistics Act ratified at these conferences should form the basis of vital statistical legislation for the several provinces. The order is as follows:—

Whereas the Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce reports that for the purpose of devising means to prevent duplication of work, and to insure uniformity of methods of collecting, compiling and publishing the statistics of marriages, births, and deaths, as between the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the vital statistical branches of the provincial governments, two conferences—one in June, 1918, and the other in December, 1918—were held between officers of the branches named, at which it was agreed as follows:—

(1) That the Model Vital Statistics Act prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, as ratified at the conferences aforesaid, should form the basis of the vital statistical legislation of the several provinces;

(2) That the provinces should undertake to obtain the returns of marriages, births, and deaths on the prescribed forms, as approved and adopted at the December conference, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to supply the forms free of charge;

(3) That the provinces should forward to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at such times as might be agreed upon, either the original returns of births, marriages, and deaths or certified transcripts of the same; the Dominion Bureau to undertake the mechanical compilation and tabulation of the same.

Therefore, His Excellency the Governor General in Council, in order to provide a mutually satisfactory basis of co-operation between the Minister and the Registrars General of the several provinces, as above outlined, is pleased to approve and doth hereby approve of the following regulations:—

REGULATIONS.

1. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics may receive transcripts or certified copies of the original returns of marriages, births, and deaths made by the clergymen, physicians, undertakers or other persons upon whom it is incumbent to make such returns.

2. These copies are to be forwarded by the provincial department charged with the execution of the Vital Statistics Act in each province to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics quarterly or monthly on dates to be agreed upon.

3. The Minister may for each properly filled in transcript or copy of original return of each birth, marriage, or death pay to the Registrar General such remuneration as may be mutually agreed upon. He may also print and supply free of charge the prescribed forms upon which the returns

shall be made to the registrars by clergymen, physicians, undertakers, etc.

4. Nothing in the preceding sections shall preclude an arrangement between the Bureau of Statistics and any provincial department whereby the original returns may be forwarded to the Bureau for transcript, compilation, and return in order to avoid duplication of work and office expense.

5. The Bureau of Statistics shall compile, tabulate and publish the vital statistical data for the Dominion as a whole, and may furnish monthly or quarterly compilations, according to a stated plan, to each province of the data appertaining thereto.

6. The Bureau of Statistics shall also co-ordinate the statistics of immigration and emigration with vital statistics, and shall undertake, when taking the census of population, to secure the data required for vital statistical purposes and to compile the same.

7. The Minister may, from time to time, out of the vote for the Bureau of Statistics, devote a sum not exceeding \$2,000 to pay the expenses of one representative from each province to attend at Ottawa a conference of vital statisticians. Such conference shall be for the purpose of bringing about a closer official and personal association of the registration officials of the several provinces and of increasing co-operation between government bureaus, and other organizations interested in the improvement and use of vital statistics and of promoting the introduction of effective systems of registering vital statistics for public health and legal purposes, including the revision from time to time of the classification of causes of death; aiding in the maintenance of uniform methods of collecting, preserving, correcting and compiling registration records and of publishing the statistical data derived therefrom; and in general of promoting a proper appreciation of the necessity and importance of vital statistics.

8. The Minister may, after each decennial revision of the International Classification of Diseases and Causes of Death, have prepared a "Manual of the International List of the Causes of Death," to contain (1) the terms of the French list or as many of them as may be properly used in English, (2) the terms founded upon medical certificates of causes of death as reported by Canadian physicians.

9. The Minister may also prepare any supply free of charge to Provincial Registrars for distribution to all duly qualified physicians in the Dominion, a Physician's Pocket Reference to the International List of Causes of Death.

10. The provisions of the foregoing Regulations shall apply only to such provinces as shall adopt the "Model Act," as the basis of their legislation on vital statistics or have enacted legislation which conforms to the salient features of the "Model Act," and provided that the forms supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics shall be used in obtaining the original returns, and provided further that each province shall furnish satisfactory evidence that it received returns of at least 90 per cent of all marriages, births and deaths occurring in each calendar year.

The Minister hereinabove referred to, shall be the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

between gross receipts and operating expenses were \$9,108,765 in 1918, as compared with \$8,025,855 in 1917.

Additions to and subtractions from primary net earnings reduce that amount to \$5,187,323.

The total value of telephone equipment in 1918 was \$662,330, and in 1917, \$604,136. The total mileage of telephones in 1918 was 1,848,467.34, as against 1,708,202.80 in 1917.

Coming to the telegraph companies, the figures presented show that on June 30, 1918, their cost was placed at \$10,-

226,988, a slight increase over the previous year, while the capitalization of the companies having headquarters in Canada was \$6,300,000. The gross revenue was \$7,770,646, as compared with \$7,272,755 for the previous twelve months. Operating expenses were \$5,580,335, as compared with \$4,940,228 during the previous year. The net operating revenue amounted to \$2,016,429.

In 1918 land messages to the number of 12,377,754 were sent, as against 11,817,517 in 1917. Of cablegrams,

HOW GRATUITIES PAYMENTS ARE BEING MADE

*Department of Militia issues
Explanatory Statement Re-
garding Handling of Claims
for Extra Allowances*

33,931 APPLICATIONS.

The following information is issued by the Department of Militia, with a view to clearing up existing difficulties regarding soldiers' War Service Gratuities.

The settlement of all claims for War Service Gratuity for all ranks who have been struck off the strength of the Canadian Expeditionary Force prior to November 11, 1918, is dealt with by Militia Headquarters, Ottawa.

The statutory declaration must be forwarded through the District Paymaster of the Military District in which the applicant was discharged, after a certificate has been attached, showing the amount of Post Discharge Pay already paid.

Up to April 25 there have been received 33,931 applications for War Service Gratuity from those struck off the strength, prior to the 11th of November, 1918. Of these 2,800 have been received since April 1, and to date, 89,190 cheques have been issued, of which 34,841 cheques represent the first payment to soldiers and their dependents; 27,445 the second payment; 25,104 the third payment and 1,800 the fourth payment, the disbursement of War Service Gratuity under the Order in Council having commenced on the first of February last.

While difficulties have arisen in dealing with certain applications, and while a number of claims are still unsettled, in every case where the statutory declaration has been received at Militia Headquarters, prior to the 17th of April, either a cheque for the first payment has been made, or the applicant has been communicated with, or advised of the necessity for further inquiry.

REFERENCES TO ENGLAND.

In cases where a portion of the soldier's service has been with an Imperial Unit, reference has been made to England to verify the amount of the gratuity reported as having been paid by the Imperial authorities, and no further action can be taken pending receipt of reply. In other cases where soldiers enlisted in August and September, 1914, considerable correspondence has been necessary to ascertain the name of their Active Militia Unit, as the C.E.F. attestation papers do not show service before the latter part of September, when most of these men were attested in Valcartier.

Cases have also arisen where the service as shown by the Record Office in Canada differs from the service claimed by the soldier. This necessitates reference to overseas authorities.

With the exception of applications concerning which further inquiry has to be instituted, all cases are dealt with in the order in which the statutory declaration has been received at Militia Headquarters, and in the case of any applicant whose claim was forwarded to the District Paymaster of the district in which he was discharged prior to the 17th of April, and who has not received either a cheque or a communication in connection with this claim, notification should be sent addressed to the Paymaster General, Militia Headquarters, Ottawa, advising the date on which the statutory declaration was forwarded, and the Military District in which the soldier was discharged.

1,021,853 were sent in 1918 and 1,084,956 in 1917. The total number of telegraph employees in 1918 was 7,212, and in 1917 there were 7,100. Operators in 1918 were 3,894 male and 503 female, against 3,996 male and 496 female in 1917. The total salaries in 1918 were \$3,937,950.62; in 1917, \$3,278,450.39. There were 4,664 offices open in 1918, compared with 4,615 in 1917.