

and serving in British Columbia such points as Swan Lake, Pouce Coupe, Fort St. John, Halfway River and Hudson Hope.

On the coast there are several wireless stations giving direct connection with each other, ships at sea and the principal wireless stations of the more thickly settled southerly parts. Many large industrial plants have wireless systems of their own.

There is no reason to doubt that the extension of these facilities will keep pace with the development of the country. Prince Rupert and Prince George now have telephone systems of their own. A telephone line from Prince George to Blackwater gives connection with the Ashcroft-Dawson line. In addition to these lines are the wires of railways which give a commercial service from all stations. The extension of the mail service to include rural free delivery in agricultural settlements and the establishment of rural telephone lines is only a matter of time.

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL LIFE.

Educational facilities throughout Central British Columbia are essentially the same as exist over the entire province, excepting that possibly the handicap caused by the isolation of families in remote corners is felt to a greater degree. Education in Canada is administered by the various Provincial Governments independently of each other. The departments of these various Governments dealing with this important matter strive to keep abreast of or outdo each other, with the result that most progressive and thorough educational policies are being carried out.

The education of all children in public schools erected and maintained by the Education Department is both free and compulsory. In the larger centres high schools are maintained in like manner. Attendance on the part of the children at these institutions is also free.

The great areas with scanty population in Central British Columbia make the duty of providing for the education of the children a most serious matter. In endeavour to place within the reach of every child the opportunity of acquiring elementary education the Government has gone so far as to provide for the erecting of a school house and the supplying of a teacher where a minimum number of children are found in any locality. An average attendance of eight was required to keep such schools open. As may be readily imagined in such outlying localities, some of these children would have long distances to go to and from school. Roads in such localities are not of the best, and when inclement weather occurred it was difficult for such children to maintain a regular attendance. The average, therefore, has been reduced from eight to six in order to permit the continuance of some schools which would otherwise be forced to close down. It has often been suggested that the minimum might be made still lower.

Another suggestion that is being considered by the Department of Education is the establishment of central resident schools here and there throughout the remote districts. With the improvement of roads it might often be found advantageous to establish consolidated schools embracing several small districts and providing for the transportation of children by stage or motor-car.

The department is most anxious that every boy and girl growing up in any part of the province should be provided with a free preliminary education. The difficulties