

The telegraph business of Canada, from Quebec to the west, is in the hands of the great North-West Telegraph Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, while the Western Union Telegraph Company controls the Maritime Provinces. The following figures for the year 1893 will illustrate the relative work of the above three lines:

Great North-Western Telegraph Co., 18,165 miles of line, 34,628 miles of wire sent 2,643,318 messages, and had 1,471 offices.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Co. had 7,600 miles of line, 26,000 miles of wire sent 1,200,000 messages, and had 880 offices, the Western Union had 3,172 miles of line, 8,713 miles of wire, sent 344,919 messages, and had 214 offices—which makes a total of 28,937 miles of line, 68,741 miles of wire, 4,188,237 messages and 2,565 offices.

In addition to the above the Anglo-American Cable Co. operate the lines of the Prince Edward Island system, having 385 miles of poles, 403 miles of wire, and 32 offices.

The ordinary rate for messages to places in the Dominion is twenty-five cents for ten words. To Halifax Winnipeg and British Columbia rates vary from thirty cents to one dollar for ten words. To the United States the rate is from forty cents per ten words upwards, according to distance. The rate to the United Kingdom is 25 cents per word.

Canada has one telegraph office to every 1,937 persons, and only eight countries in the world possess a greater telegraph mileage.

The total length of telegraph lines in the world is 601,142 miles of land line, and 153,649 miles of cable; the length of telegraph wire is 1,500,000 miles.

The United States possess 210,000 miles open for public service, of which 190,303 miles belong to the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Since 1875 the oceans have been networked with submarine cables. In 1879 10,550 miles were laid; in 1883, 2,584 miles; in 1885, 4,382 miles, and from 1886 to 1888, 5,893 miles. The latest returns give the following as the actual situation as regards extent of submarine cable. Total, 113,084 nautical miles of cable, of which there are of single wires 110,516 miles and several wires 2,568 miles.

TELEPHONE.

The telephone system in Ontario and Quebec is largely controlled by the Bell Telephone Co., of Montreal.

There are connected with the several systems 44,000 miles of wire and 33,500 instruments, and that in 1894 about 73,000,000 messages were sent.

The first experimental telephone erected in Canada was from the residence of Prof. Graham Bell's father, in Brantford, Ont., to the residence of the Rev. T. Henderson, also of Brantford. The first commercial line was established at Hamilton in October, 1877. Canada is, therefore, the birthplace of the telephone, as Edison in the same year, 1877, opened up correspondence with parties in Montreal, but he admitted Bell's claim to priority in the invention and its use.

The United States in 1894 had 353,480 miles of telephone wire. Canada had 8,800 miles of wire for each million of her people; the United States 4,700 miles.

MERCANTILE MARINE.

The Marine interests of Canada are large, and to have a thoroughly equipped Marine Department is most essential.

This department was formed after the union of the Provinces in 1867, Hon. Peter Mitchell becoming the first Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Since Confederation 200,000,000 tons of sea-going shipping have entered the sea ports of Canada, 172,000,000 tons of shipping have crossed and re-crossed the great lakes between Canada and the United States, 360,000,000 tons having passed from Canadian ports to Canadian ports, doing the coasting trade of the country.

Last year there were 755 light houses, 624 light stations, 22 fog horns and 39 automatic fog horns.

The Ontario division extending from Montreal to Manitoba, contained 222 lights, located at 180 stations. In the Quebec division are 153 lights, and 116 stations, and 8 light ships. The Nova Scotia division has 178 light houses showing 190 lights, New Brunswick 94 light houses, and Prince Edward Island 35 light houses.

The total cost of maintaining the light houses, fog whistles, etc., in Canada, during 1894, was \$470,549.

The total number of vessels on the Registry Books of the Dominion in 1894, was 7,245, with a gross tonnage of 869,624 tons.

The total number of wrecks and casualties to sea-going vessels of all nations, during 1894, as reported by the Department, was 86, the tonnage involved was 36,777, and the amount of loss estimated at \$322,225. The number of lives lost was ten.

That the efforts of the Government and the people of Canada to reduce the number of casualties, and diminish destruction of property and loss of life, by means of light houses, fog whistles, etc., have been successful, is seen in the following statement.

Average number of Casualties and Deaths.

	1870-74	1875-79	1880-84	1885-89	1890-93	1894
Casualties	311	431	405	329	203	86
Lives lost	290	232	280	112	28	10
Shipping employed, tons..	22,100,000	21,446,240	23,801,605	32,430,937	42,983,937	46,914,049

The number of vessels built and registered in Canada during 1894, was 326, with a tonnage of 21,243. 43 vessels to other countries, valued at \$243,429, with a tonnage of 21,960.

The below table shows the principal countries from which sea-going vessels arrived, and for which they cleared, at Canadian ports in 1894,

Countries from

Great Britain
British West
Newfoundland
United States
France
Germany
Spanish West
Japan
Other countries

Total

Countries to

Great Britain
British West
Newfoundland
United States
France
Germany
Spanish West
Japan
Other countries

Total

There were
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