

Dominion Government Telegraph Lines.

In speaking in the House of Commons recently in reference to the improvement of the St. Lawrence navigation, the Dominion Minister of Public Works said that he hoped that the telegraph line to Belle Isle would be completed by July or Aug.

The Dominion estimates for the year ending June 30, 1901, provide \$10,000 to complete the extension of the telegraph line on the north shore of the St. Lawrence eastward to Belle Isle Island, & \$1,000 to improve roadway, repair & increase operating facilities generally between Godbout & Pointe aux Esquimaux eastward.

The following items appear under the head "Public Works chargeable to the collection of revenue," in the Dominion estimates for the year ending June 30, 1901:

Telegraph line between Prince Edward Island & the mainland	\$ 2,000 00
Land & cable telegraph lines of the sea-coasts & islands of the lower rivers & gulf of St. Lawrence & Maritime Provinces, including cost of working str. Newfield or other vessels when required for cable service	34,000 00
Telegraph lines, Northwest Territories	20,000 00
Telegraph lines, British Columbia	12,000 00
Telegraph & signal service generally	2,750 00

In the House of Commons recently the Dominion Minister of Public Works stated that the cost of constructing the Government telegraph line between Bennett, B.C., & Dawson was reported by the Superintendent of Construction as \$146,937.99, an average of \$223.63 a mile. Wire was purchased from different persons at \$2.50 & at \$2.74 per 100 lbs. The Minister also stated that connection between the Bennett-Dawson telegraph line & Atlin City had been made by the construction of a line from Tagish to Atlin, at a cost of \$15,500, & that the line was in full operation.

J. B. Charleson arrived at Vancouver early in Feb., in connection with the construction of the remaining sections of the Yukon telegraph line. At present a government line runs from Ashcroft to Quesnelle, B.C., & the work now undertaken is to build a line from Quesnelle to Atlin, B.C., where connection will be made with the line to Dawson, Yukon, built last year. A party was despatched from Vancouver, via Skagway, to Atlin, to commence building from there towards Quesnelle, & Mr. Charleson went with another party to Quesnelle to start building from there towards Atlin. The 1st stretch from Quesnelle to Hazelton will be about 300 miles, the 2nd from Hazelton to Telegraph Creek will be about 400 miles, & the 3rd from Telegraph Creek to Atlin about 344 miles, a total of 1,044 miles, which it is expected to complete this year. At present messages from Dawson have to be brought from Skagway by steamer to Vancouver, & vice versa. While in Vancouver Mr. Charleson stated that the Minister of Public Works had authorized him to also build a 50 mile line from Dawson to the International Boundary, to meet a line which is to be built from St. Michael's to Circle City by a U.S. company, but the Postmaster General has since stated in the House of Commons that this is not at present contemplated, as there is no vote out of which to take the cost of construction.

The Bell Telephone Company.

At the annual meeting in Montreal Feb. 22, the 20th annual report was presented as follows:—2,841 subscribers have been added during the year, the total number of sets of instruments earning rental being 34,923. The Co. now owns & operates 343 exchanges & 450 agencies; 1,686 miles of wire have been added to the long distance system in 1899; of these 318 miles are in the Ontario department & 1,368 are in the eastern department. The long distance lines owned & operated by the company comprise 18,920 miles of wires on 6,229 miles of poles.

In Dec. the directors, acting under the power conferred upon them, offered to the shareholders at par 9,900 shares of new stock, in the proportion of 1 share of new for each 4 of old, practically all of which have been subscribed for.

Since the last report, the building in London has been completed, a building has been erected in Parkdale, & a building for the stores department has been erected on Mountain st., Montreal, all of which have been paid for. There is no encumbrance whatever on any of the company's real estate.

REVENUE ACCOUNT DEC. 31, 1899.

RECEIPTS.	
Exchanges	\$1,025,858.88
Long distance lines	303,374.04
Private lines	12,111.08
Miscellaneous	115,339.06
	<u>\$1,456,683.06</u>

EXPENSES.	
Operating	\$1,025,215.31
Legal	10,924.55
Insurance	14,605.62
Bond interest	47,642.65
Miscellaneous	4,987.53
	<u>\$1,103,375.66</u>

Net revenue for 1899	\$ 353,307.40
Less dividends (inc. Jan. 15, 1900)	312,920.00
	<u>\$ 40,387.40</u>

Balance revenue from 1898	149,735.98
Carried forward to 1900	<u>\$ 190,123.38</u>

BALANCE SHEET, DEC. 31, 1899.

Stock account	\$3,960,000 00
Bond account	1,010,000 00
Contingent fund	800,000 00
Revenue account	190,123 38
Unearned rental reserve	185,614 83
Insurance reserve	77,897 27
Accident reserve	19,745 76
Bond interest reserve	12,625 00
Sundry creditors	579,518 01
	<u>\$6,835,524 25</u>

Plant and patents, Dec. 31, 1898	\$4,576,276 35
Do. added in 1899	668,159 98
	<u>\$5,244,436 33</u>

Plant and patents, Dec. 31, 1899	\$5,244,436 33
Stores on hand	238,851 39
Real estate	756,743 06
Stock in other companies	405,981 50
Sundry debtors	120,429 40
Due from Agencies	55,632 58
Cash	13,449 99
	<u>\$6,835,524 25</u>

The following directors were elected:—C. F. Sise, R. Mackay, J. E. Hudson, R. Archer, W. R. Driver, H. Paton, C. Cassils & T. Sherwin.

The Co. has recently made improvements in its exchange at Acton, Ont., including a new combined local & long distance switch-board.

T. Jackson, for 14 years manager at Stratford, Ont., for the Co., has retired, owing to advanced years, & has been succeeded by J. H. Martin.

The Co. has placed with the Acton Burrows Co., Toronto, a large order for enameled iron signs for its local & long distance stations. They will be 19½ x 18 ins., made double with flange so as to project from buildings & to be readable from either side. They will bear the well-known sign of a bell, & will be lettered "Public Station, Local & Long Distance Telephone." The ground will be white & the device & lettering in blue.

General Telephone Matters.

A sleet & snow storm which raged in Halifax Feb. 23, is said to have caused the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. a loss of about \$100,000.

The Victoria Telephone Co., with headquarters at Woodville, Ont., which operates in the county of Victoria, will, it is said, build into Lindsay.

Application is being made to the British Columbia Legislature for the incorporation of the Western Telephone & Telegraph Co. with power to build from Vancouver to the Boundary Creek district.

The Union Telephone Co., of Musquodoboit, N.S., has elected the following officers: President, E. Archibald; Vice-President, J. Annand; Sec.-Treas., H. C. Taylor. Last year's business is reported to have been most satisfactory.

It is said to be the intention of the Vernon & Nelson Telephone Co. to extend its lines as far as Camp McKinney, B.C., via Rock Creek, & from Rock Creek to Bolster, Wash., where the system will connect with that of the Inland Telephone Co., which will build up from Republic to Chesaw & Bolster. It is understood, too, that it is the intention of the latter Co. to extend its lines into the Okanagan country, taking in Loomis, Oro & other points of importance.

At the recent annual meeting of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, President Drewry said in his report: "Another evidence of our progress is found in the wonderful development of our telephone system. May 1, 1881, witnessed the opening in this city of the first telephone exchange, with 25 subscribers. Since then there has been a steady annual increase in the number, & at present 1,250 subscribers enjoy, either in their homes or business places, this really indispensable convenience; 1,745 miles of wire on poles & 502 under ground; a total of 2,247 miles is required in the installing of these instruments. There are, within the city's boundaries, 65 miles of poles. The system employed is known as the metallic circuit system, i.e., 2 wires to each subscriber. Winnipeg was the first city in Canada to generally adopt this system. The long distance telephone, now recognized in the large business centres as practically invaluable for the rapid transaction of business, is also showing marked development here. I understand not less than 200 miles will be constructed during the coming season, connecting Winnipeg with Portage la Prairie, Carberry, Brandon, Minnedosa, Neepawa & intermediate points."

Among the Express Companies.

M. M. Perl has been appointed General Agent for the Alaska Pacific Ex. Co., with headquarters at Cape Nome, Alaska.

The Western Ex. Co.'s service has been placed on the Hancock & Arcadian Mine stage route, & an office opened at Arcadian Mine, Mich.

The Dominion Ex. Co.'s stationery & supply department at Winnipeg has been closed, & requisitions for stationery & supplies are now made on the supply department at Toronto.

The Dominion Ex. Co. has opened the New Westminster & Chilliwack steamboat route, between New Westminster & Chilliwack, B.C., distance about 65 miles, service tri-weekly.

Plans are being prepared for additions to the Toronto Union station to accommodate the Canadian & the Dominion Express Co's. the present quarters being found inadequate for the increased business.

The Alaska Pacific Ex. Co. has entered into an exclusive contract for operating on the White Pass & Yukon Ry. from Skagway to Lake Bennett, B.C., at which point connection is made for Dawson by sleds & dog teams. There is now a daily messenger service between Skagway & Bennett.

The Alaska Pacific Ex. Co. has completed arrangements for extending its service to Cape Nome, Alaska, & will be prepared to handle all business for Cape Nome & St. Michaels as soon as navigation opens. It will have service on the Pacific Clipper line of