

vited by the Pacific Cable Committee on behalf of Her Majesty's Government & the Governments of Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, New Zealand & Queensland. It is proposed to divide the whole undertaking under three distinct contracts, for any one or more of which contractors may tender. Each of these contracts will include a clause under which the contractor guarantees the good electrical condition & working order of the cables for 30 consecutive days after the completion of the laying. A fourth contract is also proposed for surveying & sounding the whole route before the cables are laid. The last day for the reception of tenders in London, Eng., is Aug. 14.

In the introduction to the official catalogue of the Canadian Section of the Paris Exposition, Geo. Johnson, F.S.S., says:—"When British North America sent her wares to the London Exhibition of 1851, the country had just begun to supply herself with telegraph lines. Montreal & Quebec had been connected by wire for three years; a single uninsulated wire connecting Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara & St. Catharines was all that Upper Canada had to show. Nova Scotia & New Brunswick had inaugurated the electric telegraph a couple of years before. There may have been 300 or 400 miles of wire strung throughout the country at that date. Now there are 76,000 miles. In 1851 there may have been a score of offices for the transmission of telegrams. There are now over 2,600, or one for every 2,000 of the people, Canada, in this respect, standing ahead of most European & of all American countries."

In the House of Commons, July 2, upon concurrence in the vote for telegraphs, Sir Adolphe Caron complained that although the Canadian, British Columbia & Dawson City Telegraph Co., of which he & ex-Premier Turner of British Columbia were directors, had been chartered by Parliament for the purpose of building a telegraph line to Dawson, the Government had built a line itself. He urged that such action on the part of the Government had done much injury to Canadian enterprise in London. He urged the claim of the Co. for consideration, in view of the expense it had been put to in anticipation of building the line. Mr. Mulock, not being aware of the facts to which Sir Adolphe alluded, could not discuss the claim of the Co. for indemnity. He quite endorsed the position taken by Sir Adolphe as to the duty of the Government to keep faith not only with those who take charters but with the public who invest in enterprises. Judging from the statements of Sir Adolphe, however, the claims rested upon statements which had been made by the ministers of Public Works & Railways & Canals individually. When the Minister of Public Works returned he would bring the matter to his attention.

Dominion Government Telegraph Lines.

J. B. Charleson, who is in charge of construction of the line from Quesnelle to Atlin, B.C., to connect with the line to Dawson, Yukon, on arriving at Vancouver, July 16, said he had been informed by the Public Works Department that \$12,000 had been appropriated for the construction of a telegraph line connecting the present system from Dawson to Fort Cudahy, on the international boundary, & that Brigadier-General Greeley, of the U.S. War Office, had informed the Government that a cable was to be laid from Nome to St. Michael, & a land line from St. Michael to connect with the Canadian branch line to Fort Cudahy. The U.S. Government will build the line in connection with the signal service of the U.S. War Department, & it will be constructed under the direction of F. Green. Before leaving Chicago for Alaska early in August, General

Greeley said: "Some time ago I perfected arrangements with the Dominion Government & already the Canadian engineers are building their line from Dawson northwesterly to meet ours at the boundary. The two Governments have joined hands to carry the wires through the heart of the northern wilderness."

An Ottawa despatch of Aug. 3 says: "J. B. Charleson reports that the section from Atlin to Telegraph Creek, 222 miles, is completed. The section from Tagish to Atlin, 80 miles, was previously built, which makes 302 miles of wire at the northern end. To the south, wires have been strung from Quesnelle to Hazelton, 342 miles, leaving 300 miles between the two inside ends of the wire. A connection will be made about the end of Sept., or early in Oct. About the same time connection will be made with the line into Dawson. The line from Quesnelle to Ashcroft, 220 miles, is being re-poled. Branches are to be built to Horse Fly, 72 miles, & from French Lake to Manson Creek, in the Omenica district."

Dominion Telegraph Company.

At the annual meeting in Toronto, July 11, the following financial report was presented:—

ASSETS.	
Capital expenditure.....	\$1,281,819 47
Toronto, Grey & Bruce Ry. Co.	
1883 bonds, & interest thereon...	1,596 24
Cash in bank & on hand.....	30,194 16
	<u>\$1,313,609 87</u>
LIABILITIES.	
Capital stock paid up.....	\$1,000,000 00
Dividends unclaimed.....	1,787 30
Dividend payable July 16, 1900....	14,000 00
Suspense.....	372 13
	<u>\$1,016,159 33</u>
Balance of credit of profit & loss account.....	297,450 54
	<u>\$1,313,609 87</u>

The directors reported the payment to the Co., by the lessees—the Western Union Telegraph Co.—of the guaranteed interest of 6% per annum on the capital stock of the Co., up to & including June 30, 1900, the proceeds of which have been promptly distributed quarterly to the shareholders.

Following is the organization for the current year:—President, T. Swinyard; Vice-President, Sir Frank Smith; other directors, General T. T. Eckert, C. A. Tinker, A. G. Ramsay, H. Pellatt, H. Mackenzie, T. F. Clark, T. R. Wood; Secretary-Treasurer, F. Roper.

General Telephone Matters.

Poles for the New Brunswick Tel. Co.'s line from Fredericton to Chatham are erected as far as Green Hill.

The Bell Co. has recently issued official directories of subscribers for Montreal city & suburbs, Southern Quebec & Northern Quebec.

The Kinnear's Mills Telephone Co. states that the proposed line from Kinnear's Mills to Thedford Mines will probably not be built this year.

The Bell Co. is making extensive improvements to its Winnipeg premises & system, including the laying of underground cables on Portage Avenue.

The Gloucester Tel. Co., Ltd., is being incorporated; capital, \$2,000; chief place of business, Bathurst, N.B. R. Ross, J. H. Stewart & C. Ross, Bathurst, are directors.

The Edmonton, Alberta, District Tel. Co. reports 37 miles of wire and 99 instruments in use. This includes the lines to St. Albert, Morinville & Strathcona. The poles & wire for the Morinville line were furnished by the Dominion Government.

The Bell Co. has completed a copper metal-

lic line from Three Rivers to Shawinigan Falls & Grand Mere, Que., providing those places with perfect communication to Montreal, Toronto, Quebec, Ottawa, Boston, New York & intermediate points.

The New Brunswick Telephone Co. has linemen going over the line between St. John & Fredericton, repairing the poles & cross bars & putting everything in shape for stretching the new copper wire which the Co. is to install over all its trunk system.

The Neepawa, Man., telephone system, which is operated by the town, has 117 subscribers & a number of applications for connection. The rates are \$20 for business & \$10 for house service. The system is metallic, & the wire mileage is about 10 miles.

In the introduction to the official catalogue of the Canadian Section of the Paris Exposition, Geo. Johnson, F.S.S., says: "In 1851 there were, of course, no telephones in Canada. There are now 90,000 miles of wire under the administration of 62 companies, so that city & country are well supplied with these time-savers."

The New Brunswick Tel. Co. is perfecting its long distance service throughout the province, & is constructing lines between St. John & St. Stephen, & between Fredericton & Chatham. A copper line has been stretched between St. John & Moncton. The St. John exchange is to be reconstructed & brought up to date.

The Bell Co. is building about 200 miles of long distance lines in Manitoba this year. The principal line is from Winnipeg to Brandon, with intermediate offices at Portage la Prairie, MacGregor, & Carberry. The line has been completed between Winnipeg & Portage la Prairie. A branch line will run from Carberry via Neepawa to Minnedosa, with intermediate offices at Neepawa & Franklin.

In reference to the statement published in our last issue to the effect that a telephone line, in which the Bonny River Lumber Co. is said to be interested, is being built between St. Martins & St. John, N.B., we are informed that no new line is being built between the points mentioned. The New Brunswick Telephone Co. is building between St. John & St. Stephen, N.B., also from Fredericton to Chatham, N.B.

The Berlin, Ont., Town Council has unanimously carried this resolution: "That the valuable exclusive franchise granted to the Bell Tel. Co. to operate its system in this municipality be not renewed at its expiration, but that the matter be referred to the fire & water committee with a view of investigating & ascertaining the probable cost & revenue of establishing a permanent local town system & operating therewith the town fire alarm system."

The telephonograph is a new invention which comes from Denmark. It is a combination of the telephone with a newly constructed phonograph, which makes it possible to fix & preserve conversations in the absence of the intended hearer, so that he can listen to the message after his return. But the importance of the invention reaches much further. Through the use of magneto-phonography it is possible to multiply the effect of the sound & to give the sound greater force.

The telephone has superseded the telegraph to a certain extent on the Santa Fe Ry. The Co. has now in operation on the Chicago, eastern & middle divisions, a private telephone system connecting the majority of the block signal stations, & the passage of trains in & out of the various blocks is now scheduled from operator to operator by telephone instead of telegraph as heretofore. However, the management of the road believes in the telephone as a means of communication in railroad work only to a limited extent.