

portation Club, and was also a Royal Arch Mason, Knight Templar, and member of the Railroad City Tent Knights of the Maccabees.

The Telegraph Age has prepared statistical information, showing the various railways on the American continent which have adopted telephones for train despatching, with the mileage on which it is adopted. The results show a total mileage of all the important railways of 213,552 miles, of which 6,681 miles of single track and 4,951 miles of double track, are operated by telephone. Of the Canadian railways reporting, the C.N.R. shows a total mileage of 3,355 miles, 443 miles of single track being operated by telephones; C.P.R., total mileage, 10,396 miles, with 96 miles single track and 18 miles double track operated by telephone; G.T.R., total mileage, 4,644 miles, over none of which the telephone system of train despatching has been adopted. The C.N.R. and C.P.R. contemplate extensions of the system, and the G.T.R. proposes to adopt telephone despatching over portions of its line in the near future.

The 28th annual convention of the Association of Railway Telegraph Superintendents, was held at Detroit, Mich., June 23 to 25, under the presidency of W. J. Camp, Superintendent C.P.R. Telegraphs, Montreal. The association was formed in 1882. W. W. Ashald, Superintendent G.T.R. Telegraphs, Montreal, and W. Marshall, C.P.R. Telegraphs, Toronto, were on the committee in charge of the entertainment of visiting superintendents. On June 25, a trip to Port Huron was arranged at the invitation of the G.T.R., where opportunity was afforded of inspecting the St. Clair Tunnel, recently electrified by the G.T.R., after which the party returned to Detroit by boat. Among the papers read were those on the Necessity for Censoring Railroad Telegrams; the Difference between the Trouble Shooter and the Division Lineman; the Advantages or Disadvantages of using Cable in bringing Telephone and Telegraph Wires into Local Offices; Efficient Office Organization; Telephone Construction; Benefits of Standards in Telegraph and Telephone Construction; Dry Batteries; Wireless Telegraphy; Wire Testing and Care of Wires, and Pole Preservation.

Telegraph Rates for Press Messages.

The Board of Railway Commissioners passed order 7085, May 25, as follows: Re the application of the Times Publishing Co., of London, Eng., with Canadian head office in Ottawa, under the Railway Act and the Act, chap. 61, 7-8 Edward VII., amending the Railway Act, for an order directing the C.P.R. Co.'s Telegraph Co. of Canada, and the Western Union Telegraph Co. to transmit press messages to the Marconi Wireless station at Glace Bay, N.S., at the same rate as charged to other points along the Atlantic coast of Canada, upon hearing the application in the presence of counsel for applicant and the telegraph companies, the evidence adduced, and what was alleged, it is ordered that the application be dismissed.

Chief Commissioner Mabee gave the following judgment:—We have come to the conclusion that there is not sufficient information before the Board upon which we would be justified in granting the

order asked for by the applicants. They desire an order that the C.P.R. Co.'s Telegraphs, the G.N.W. Telegraph Co., and the W.U. Telegraph Co. transmit press messages to the Marconi wireless station at Glace Bay at the same rate as is charged to other points along the Atlantic coast of Canada. They allege that while the usual rate on press messages from Ottawa to Canadian Atlantic coast points is 35c. per 100 words at night, and 50c. per 100 words in the day time, the telegraph companies charge private message rate on all press messages to Glace Bay intended for transmission by Marconi wireless, and that these charges are excessive and discriminatory. It appears from what took place in the discussion that there is in fact as between the cable companies on the one hand and the Marconi system on the other discrimination in favor of the former or against the latter. On the other hand it seems that under the present existing rates as charged, that the sender of a message via Glace Bay over the Marconi system, as a matter of fact pays some 20c. or 30c. less to the land line for delivering at Glace Bay to the Marconi system than the same sender would pay to the cable company, as the share that the cable company under its existing contract with the land line would pay to the land line for the delivery of a message of the like number of words to the cable company at the coast, so that, in so far as the existing charges being discriminatory, and in favor of the cable companies as against the Marconi system, the facts are otherwise. As to the larger system of discrimination that was discussed by counsel as to the system now in operation being alleged to be discriminatory in favor of the American press as against the press of Great Britain or the Transatlantic press, it is not necessary at present to deal with that question. The counsel who appeared in the case suggested that when the larger question of communication generally and the rates as applicable thereto was considered by the Board, and in view of there being no sufficient information before us to deal intelligently with this application, we think that is perhaps the better disposition to make of that matter in the meantime. The attempt here is really to extend the existing system which was voluntarily established by the telegraph companies as to press rates. They have an extremely low rate apparently throughout Canada, and with their connecting lines throughout the United States for press purposes. These rates are applicable or intended to be applicable in so far as Canada is concerned to that class of business that is addressed to newspapers, for publication in the various towns and cities and villages in the Dominion. There is a press rate to Glace Bay. It is said there is a newspaper there, and so I presume that from other parts of Canada the press rates would apply to the publisher of that newspaper at Glace Bay. The attempt here is to have the Board extend, against the will of the telegraph companies, this system of reduced rates for press purposes, in this particular instance, to the London Times published in London, Eng. Now, we have no information whatever as to the reasons that moved the telegraph companies to establish these low press rates. We have no information whatever as to the profit of the telegraph companies, as to whether these rates are fairly remunerative or not, and we have

no information as to the volume of business of that class. All of these would be most material to enable the Board to say whether or not it was a fair thing to require the telegraph companies to give to newspapers published on the other side of the Atlantic rates upon a like basis. It was said that press rates could not apply reasonably to cable messages by reason of their being so condensed and so on, and that there was in some instances greater expense imposed upon the telegraph companies by reason of their having to have operators in the cable offices. All of these matters would have to be inquired into carefully before we could deal intelligently with the case, and say whether or not transatlantic press rates should be upon the same basis as domestic press rates. This may be a matter that will be developed when the telegraph rates are looked into as they probably will have to be before very long. All that I have said is, of course, quite apart from the question of jurisdiction that counsel raised, as to which in the meantime it will not be necessary for us to say anything. That feature of it may be deferred for consideration when the balance of the complaint is more fully developed, so that we can dispose of it in a manner that we are unable to at present.

Proposed "All Red" Cable.

At the conference of press representatives of the British Empire held in London, Eng., the following resolution was moved: "That this conference regards it as of paramount importance that telegraphic facilities with various parts of the Empire should be cheapened and improved, so as to insure fuller intercommunication than exists at present, and appoints a committee to report to the conference, at its reassembling on June 25, as to the best means to attain this object."

In moving an amendment, P. D. Ross, Ottawa, advocated an "all red" cable route by Government cable to Canada, and Government control of wires across Canada. He said he had no objection to the original motion, but sent in his notice of amendment in the hope of accomplishing something practical that morning.

He said they should discuss lines of communication, method and press organization separately, and declared that Canada was almost unanimous in favor of bringing in the State to improve the cable service with Britain. The Canadian Postmaster General and the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire favored it. Meetings in Canada had been practically unanimous in favor of it. He believed the Canadian Government had information to the effect that with a State cable the cost of commercial messages could be reduced without loss to the service. There was no reason why the British and Canadian Governments should not go into the matter.

The Earl of Crewe, Secretary of State, for the Colonies, said that on the question of cable development the Government is thoroughly sympathetic, and they would look forward to the business discussions at the conference in the hope of finding a solution of the question. The great development of wireless telegraphy must be borne in mind. The Government was constantly receiving suggestions with regard to wireless developments, the latest being one in relation to the Western Pacific.