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366 offices in all. But in five years' time these figures have been entirely changed, for we are told that the C. P. R. people have now 6,500 miles of telegraph poles, stretching from Canso on the Atlantic to the shores of Vancouver Island on the Pacific, 850 offices, and a total wire mileage of 27,500 miles. It has connections in the States from Maine to California, by means of the Postal Telegraph, the Pacific Postal, the Michigan Postal, the Commercial Union, Rocky Mountain and Puget Sound Telegraphs, while its connections are the Commercial Cable and the French Cable.

The price of messages is 25 cents for ten words in Ontario, and 75 cents between Montreal or Ontario points and Manitoba; to Assiniboia or Saskatchewan Territories the price is \$1.00; to Alberta or British Columbia, \$1.25. Mr. C. R. Hosmer, now General Manager of the C. P. R. Telegraph, must have begun business life young, for starting "in the sixties" with the Provincial Line, he worked for years with the M. T. Co., and afterwards with the Dominion Line, and he still passes for a young man, as he certainly is an energetic one.

Besides the systems we have mentioned, and the lines of the Western Union Company erected long since in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, there are 3,000 miles of telegraph line in parts of Canada where enough custom cannot be secured to justify commercial companies in maintaining wires. Such, for example, as along the remote stretches of the St. Lawrence near the sea, and in the North-West Territories far back from the Canadian Pacific Railway. In these districts the Canadian Government maintains lines, and in the east a series of cables in the interests of the mercantile marine and for transmitting intelligence as to the weather and the fisheries.

The total wire mileage of all the telegraph systems of Canada is about as under:

Great North-Western Telegraph Co.,	- - - - -	40,000 miles.
Canadian Pacific Telegraph,	- - - - -	27,500 "
Western Union Telegraph,	- - - - -	7,492 "
Government Telegraphs,	- - - - -	3,043 "
Total,	- - - - -	78,095 "

The rates charged in Canada for telegraphy are the cheapest in the world, when we consider the great distances traversed by the lines and the difficulty of maintaining them through great forests or over great stretches of mountain and prairie. The climate offers many difficulties; not only snow-storms and wind-storms are to be dreaded; frozen ice is the most dangerous foe to the repairer, for its weight drags down the wire. A single sleet-storm in the Eastern States in 1882 cost the companies \$300,000 to replace the hundreds of miles of poles and wires wrecked.

The telegraph repairers in Canada are generally French Canadians. With the pluck and hardihood which is their characteristic, these gangs of men make their way, constructing lines or repairing them, through swamp and forest, through town and hamlet, roughly clad, simply fed, with an endurance and a celerity that reminds one of those historic sailors-of-the-forest, the *courcurs des bois* of Parkman.