

results in no loss to the G. N. W. Any loss in operating must be looked for in the workings of the lines of other companies. The official returns of the G. N. W. T. Co., which we had the privilege of seeing, showed extremely handsome profits paid to the shareholders.

"Nothing but good feeling prevails between the companies interested. No complaint has been made by the W. U. of the terms of the agreement. Since 11 judges settled the legal questions raised 10 years ago by the G. N. W., that Co. has carried out, & is carrying out in good faith, the conditions of the agreement. There is no issue between the parties interested; nor has there been any of any importance during the past 10 years. The agreement was executed 18 years ago, & during all that period dividends at the rate of 8% have been paid our shareholders."

Vancouver Island Telegraph Service.

The residents of Clayoquot, Uclulet & other points in Alberni district, with a number of Victorians interested in shipping & mining on the West Coast, have petitioned the Legislative Assembly praying for the establishment of a government telegraph line from Alberni to Clayoquot & Uclulet, & along the coast. The petitioners claim that such a line would be of great advantage to the mining & shipping interests of the coast. The only communication at present is by steamer from Victoria, 3 times a month in winter & 4 in summer, & from the lack of immediate communication mining transactions are sometimes delayed. Then again, shipwrecks occur & many lives & much property are sacrificed which might be saved was there direct communication. The line to Cape Beale from Alberni has already been sanctioned by the government, & the small additional outlay for the continuance of the line would, in the opinion of the petitioners, be amply justified.

The present Dominion Government line along the coast from Victoria to Cape Beale, near the entrance of Juan de Fuca Strait, 118 miles, built in 1881, has proved so unreliable that it has been decided to adopt an alternative route from Alberni, at the head of the Alberni Canal almost due west of Nanaimo. In 1895 a branch line of 29½ miles was run over to Alberni from the Nanaimo-Comox line, built in 1893, so that the gap to be now spanned between Alberni & Cape Beale is only about 38 miles. The Department of Public Works invited tenders to be sent in by Jan. 10 for the supply of telegraph poles, & for the construction of the line from Alberni to Cape Beale. The poles are to be cedar, 23 ft. long, not less than 6 ins. diameter at top, straight & sound, barked 5 ft. from the butt. On the steep bluffs opposite Uchucklesit Bay, Hell Gate & Copper Mountain, 1½ miles in all, iron brackets bolted to the rock are to be used to support the wire. The poles are to be erected not more than 165 ft. apart, & the Government will supply the following material, &c., which is similar to what was used on the coast line, viz., no. 6 line wire, no. 9 tie wire, white porcelain insulators, & oak screw brackets, also pins, instruments & batteries.

Canadian Pacific Ry. Co.'s Telegraph.

The Crow's Nest Pass branch of the C.P.R. having been taken over by the Telegraph Department, the following new offices on that branch have been placed on the same basis as offices in the Kootenay district of B.C., thus reducing the rates from \$2 & \$2.25 to \$1 & \$1.25 from the East & a corresponding reduction from the West. This went into effect Jan. 1.

NEW OFFICES.—Blairmore, Pincher, Brocket, Pincher Creek, Coal Creek, Crow's

Nest, Elko, Fisher, Kitchener, Sirdar, Cranbrook, Fort Steele Jct., Fernie, Hosmer, Michel, Wardner.

OFFICES CLOSED.—6th Siding, 7th Siding, Alta.; Kuskanook, B.C., Irishman's Creek, B.C.

OFFICES CHANGED.—Bull Head, B.C., changed to Crow's Nest; Duck Lake, B.C., changed to Sirdar; Russell Creek, B.C., changed to Kitchener.

It is expected a branch telegraph line to Fort Steele, B.C., will be built at once; at present messages are sent to Fort Steele by telephone line from Cranbrook.

The new office at Winnipeg is about completed & ready for occupancy.

The Boundary Creek Telegraph & Telephone Co. has been incorporated under the B.C. Companies Act with \$50,000 capital. Head office, Greenwood, B.C.

Direct West India Cable Co.—At the recent annual meeting the report stated:—"The Co.'s cables were successfully completed & opened to the public January 31, 1898. The Jamaica Government has passed a law granting the Co. a subsidy of £2,000 a year for 5 years, & the Turk's Island Government has agreed to give £120 a year for a similar period. The revenue account shows a credit balance of £15,045, of which £10,490 has been applied to the discharge of all expenses incurred prior to the opening of the cable for traffic, including the discount at which the debentures were issued (£6,000), leaving available £4,554. It is proposed to pay a dividend for the ½ year to June 30, 1898, at the rate of 5% per annum, which will absorb £750, leaving £3,804 to be carried forward."

Royal Telegraph Co.—R. G. Code, A. F. May, A. Macfarlane, E. F. Burritt, & C. T. Moffatt, of Ottawa, 4 barristers & a clerk, give notice of application for incorporation under the Dominion Companies Act, under this title, with power to build & operate lines for the transmission of messages by telegraph or telephone through any place or places in the Dominion or elsewhere. To aid or advance money to build or work any such line to be used for telegraph or telephone purposes. To lease their lines or any portion thereof to any other company. To enter into working or other agreements with the owners of other telegraph or telephone lines for the transmission of messages to points on such other telegraph or telephone lines. To manufacture, operate, sell, let, hire, purchase or lease every description of electrical apparatus, telegraph or telephone instruments, material, plant, patents & things capable of being used in connection with any of the aforementioned objects. Ottawa is to be the chief place of business, & the capital stock \$100,000.

Yale & Kootenays.—Bodwell & Duff, solicitors, Victoria, B.C., give notice of application to the Dominion Parliament to incorporate a company to construct & operate telegraph lines in Yale & East & West Kootenay, B.C., & to make connection with any telegraph company in the U.S., or with any other telegraph or telephone company & with other powers. B.C. papers say the application is made on behalf of D. C. Corbin & A. Corbin, who retained control of the telegraph line along the Spokane Falls & Northern Ry., when that line was sold to the Great Northern. The chief object of the application is to secure the right to extend the system into the Boundary Creek country. It is also reported that Messrs. Corbin intend to connect their telegraph system with branch telephone lines to the different mining camps, & that they are behind an application recently made to the Greenwood town council, for the right to erect poles & string wires within the town limits.

TELEPHONE MATTERS.

The Bell Telephone Company.

The appeal of the Co. against an assessment of \$638,649 on its plant in Toronto, was argued before County Judges McDougall, Dartnell & McGibbon last month. Previously the plant had been assessed at \$100,000. This year the assessment was proportioned as follows: Land, \$8,750; buildings, \$24,000; poles, wires, conduits, etc., \$377,992; Temperance street switchboard, \$177,174; Yorkville & Parkdale switchboards, \$50,773. The decision of the Court of Appeal in the case of the assessment of the Co.'s plant at Hamilton stood as a precedent. This decision held that the poles, wires, etc., could not be assessed for their value as a part of a growing concern, but only on their value when detached, or as scrap iron.

A. L. Salt, Assistant Manager of the Western Electric Co., New York, gave his estimate of the value of the switchboards as follows: Temperance street, \$10,000; Yorkville ave., \$1,900; Parkdale, \$565.50.

W. C. Marshall, Inspector C.P.R. Telegraphs, said that the wires, poles, etc., of the Co. were of no value when detached. They would not realize, on sale, the cost of taking them down. The only articles which were of any value were the braces, which, when taken down, would realize about 5c. each, half of their original cost. The wire would cost about \$4 a mile to take down, which is more than they would sell for as scrap. J. J. Wright, Manager Toronto Electric Light Co., gave similar testimony.

E. F. Peck, Electric Light Superintendent at Brooklyn, N.Y., said that, as an outgrowth of his 18 years' experience, he considered the Bell poles could be removed, as they stood, for from 25c. to \$2.50 each. It was worth \$2 to erect a 25-ft. pole. There was no market for taken-down, galvanized iron wire. The aerial wire was valuable only as scrap iron.

H. C. Baker, Ontario Manager of the Bell Telephone Co., stated that the Co. had invested in the Dominion, in realty, \$4,171,432.91. This included everything except switchboard instruments & indoor plant. He believed the average life of poles in Toronto to be about 6 years; they had now lived half their life; the cables, underground, had been used about 4 years. Cables were worth from 5 to 11c. a foot; some had been sold at \$35 a ton. Wire was worth 9 or 10c. a pound when taken down. Poles taken down found little market, & would be worth from 25c. to \$2, according to size.

Expert evidence was also submitted by W. Bamfield, of Pittsburg, formerly Manager of the Pennsylvania Telephone Co., J. C. Reilly, General Superintendent of the New York & New Jersey Telephone Co., & others, the case occupying several days. The decision of the court was in favor of the Bell Co., the assessment being reduced to \$102,550, made up as follows: Poles, wires & conduits, \$53,900; Temperance street switchboard, \$12,000; Yorkville avenue & Parkdale switchboard, \$3,900; land & buildings, \$32,750. The court found as follows: "The wooden poles are valued at 25c. each; the rails & iron poles, considered as 'scrap,' what the market allows, including cost of removal, etc., are put at \$3.50 a ton net; the wire is rated as second-hand & is worth 9c. a pound, while the attachments are valued at 7c. a pound—all considered as scrap."—Canadian Electrical News.

The Co. has declared a dividend of 2% for the current quarter, payable Jan. 14.

In an appeal of the Bell Telephone Co. against its assessment in Woodstock, Ont., before Judge Finkle last month, counsel for the Co. urged that its property should only be assessed at what it was worth, apart from the uses of the Co. This view was upheld in Hamil-