

When a tug assists another tug to tow a raft, the work is performed on the raft and not on the assisted tug, and the claim for services is not a lien on the assisted tug. This is the effect of a decision rendered in the U.S. District Court at Duluth in the case of the Northwestern Fuel Company against the tug Castle.

At the recent annual meeting of the Hudson's Bay Co. the Governor, Lord Strathcona, said: We last year sent out the steamer Erik with supplies to Labrador and Hudson's Bay, but she unfortunately struck on a rock on the outward voyage. The cargo was delivered in good order, but on being overhauled the steamer was found to be so much strained and damaged that she could not be repaired, and was subsequently sold for the benefit of the underwriters. We have since bought the warship Pelican from the Government, and she has been reconstructed and adapted so as to deal with the ice which she will come in contact with in Hudson's Bay. She has been despatched to carry on transport work in the district mentioned.

Among the Express Companies.

The Western Ex. Co. has opened a route on the Seattle and International Ry., Darrington branch, between Arlington and Darrington, Wash.

The Dominion Ex. Co. has opened a route on the Lake Erie and Detroit River Ry. extension from Dutton to St. Thomas, Ont., with offices at Highgate, Muirkirk, Rodney, West Lorne, Dutton, Iona, and Shedden.

Vice-President Hannaford, of the Northern Pacific Ex. Co., advised us on Aug. 12 that he knew nothing whatever of the press reports which stated that that Co. would withdraw from Manitoba on Sept. 1, and that so far as he was advised the Co. would continue to operate in Manitoba.

Mackenzie, Mann & Co., who have been incorporated as the Halifax and South Western Ry. Co. by the Nova Scotian Government, have been given power to carry on and transact the business of an express company, or to contract with any other express company, for the carrying on of the express business of the line.

The Canadian and Dominion Ex. companies put the following reduced rates on money orders payable in Canada or the U.S. into effect on Aug. 1:—

\$ 5 and under.....	3 cents.
Over 5 not over \$10.....	6 "
" 10 " 30.....	" "
" 30 " 50.....	15 "
Over \$50 at same rates.	

Telegraph and Cable Matters.

The Superintendent of Government Telegraphs has informed the Public Works Department that the cable between St. Paul's island and Meat Cove, C.B., had been successfully repaired.

The C.P.R. Co.'s telegraph department has built a one wire line along the recently completed extension of the Lake Erie and Detroit River Ry. from Ridgetown to St. Thomas, Ont.

The Governor of Newfoundland, in closing the Legislature recently, stated that wireless telegraphy would be installed along the Labrador coast at an early date. The Legislature has appropriated \$6,000 for this purpose.

Particulars of the legislation under which the Newfoundland telegraph system is to be transferred by R. G. Reid to the Newfound-

land Government, are given on an earlier page of this issue, under the head of Newfoundland's railway settlement.

It is said that a Marconi wireless telegraph tower will be erected in Montreal for experimental purposes, in connection with the river shipping and other important interests. The position has not yet been definitely chosen, but the top of the G.N.W. Telegraph building will probably be selected.

The Pennsylvania Rd. is about to undertake experiments with new telegraph apparatus designed to increase speed of transmission. The principal feature of the new device consists in the use of perforated paper which is to be applied to the instrument, increasing the speed of transmission to about six times the rate at which it is possible to transmit by hand. The perforations are made by an operator working an instrument similar to the ordinary telegraph machine. The object immediately in view is to transact over one wire, between Philadelphia and Pittsburg, the business now requiring four through wires.

The Chicago and Milwaukee Telegraph Company has announced that it will transmit telegrams between Milwaukee and Chicago at the rate of 10c. for 10 words, and 1c. for each additional word. The lines of this Co. have heretofore been used almost exclusively for board of trade business, but have now been opened for a general commercial business. The company accepts and sends any message at the rates quoted, which can be delivered by telephone either in Chicago or Milwaukee. No arrangement has been made for the delivery of messages in any other way than by telephone, but they will be mailed to the persons for whom they are intended if they cannot be reached by telephone.

The Dominion Department of Public Works has been advised that the two sets of Marconi instruments ordered by the Government for experimental tests of wireless telegraphy in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, arrived at Halifax Aug. 3 from London. The instruments were forwarded at once to Gaspé to be taken on board the Government cable steamer Tyrian. Pending their arrival the Tyrian was engaged in repairing the cable line to Anticosti. At Gaspé the instruments will be placed on board the steamer in charge of D. H. Keeley, Superintendent of Government Telegraphs, who will conduct the experiments. The Tyrian's first commission, however, will be to lay the 22 miles of cable which is to connect Belle Isle with the mainland at Chateau Bay.

On July 16 a section of 35 miles was reported as uncompleted on the Government telegraph line to Dawson, and the construction party was then working about 136 miles north of Hazelton. On Aug. 1, it was reported that the line had been completed, but the Deputy Minister of Public Works stated that he could not understand how the statement could have originated, that the portion of the line remaining uncompleted passed through a difficult country, that snow was rendering the construction difficult, and that it would probably be the end of August before the work could be completed. It is said that there will not be any changes on the line between Ashcroft and Quesnel, except opening an office at the 108-mile house. It is also said that the old wire running between Ashcroft and Quesnel will be transferred to the new poles; that local business will be carried on as at present, and that there will be no cutting in on the new line which will be reserved for through business. Ashcroft will be the distributing point for all messages and 4 or 5 operators will be employed there. It is expected that the construction of the Quesnel forks and Mason creek branch will be gone on with as soon as the main line is completed.

Simultaneously with the passing of a vote of £2,000,000 in the British House of Commons for the construction of the Pacific Cable, a proclamation was issued at Ottawa, bringing into effect the Act passed last session, by which Canada became responsible for five-eighths of the cost of the cable. The British Government is advancing a sum representing the cost of the cable and its incidentals. The contract with the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Co. of London, calls for the completion of the cable on Dec. 31, 1902. The cable will be 7,145 nautical miles in length, commencing at Vancouver, B.C., with a station at Norfolk Island and with branches from Norfolk Island to Australia and New Zealand. It will be paid for in instalments as laid, and when completed will be managed by a board of joint control on which the contributing governments of Great Britain and Canada, of the states of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and of the colony of New Zealand will be represented. Great Britain's representatives on the board of management are: Sir Spencer Walpole (chairman), Messrs. Gleadowe and Mercer. Lord Strathcona and A. Lang are Canada's two representatives, while the three Australian states are represented by two members and New Zealand by one. The chairman is allowed a salary of \$3,000 a year. Experts estimate that for the first year of its operation, the cable will show a deficit of \$60,000, of which Canada's share would be about \$16,600. After that they think the cable will be a paying concern.

Telegraph and Telephone Statistics.

Geo. Johnson, Dominion Statistician, has furnished the following statement:—

The telegraph system of Canada includes 3,906 miles of land and cable telegraph lines owned by the Dominion Government, and 30,717 miles owned by companies, making a total of 34,623 miles of lines and 84,510 miles of wire. The messages of the signal quarantine and meteorological services, and also the bulletins giving the movements of the fish in the waters in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and other shore lines are transmitted free of toll. Since 1895 the mileage of the lines under control has increased by 1,182 miles, the total sum voted for construction and operation and maintenance of telegraph lines last year amounting to \$527,400. The companies' lines conveyed 4,960,414 messages last year. In 1891 the average number of messages carried annually per office was 1,700, and in 1900 it was 1,850, the number of offices increasing in the period by 198. Per mile of line the number of messages annually increased from 151 in 1891 to 161 in 1900.

The number of telephone instruments in use in 1900 was 52,417, an increase of 18,917 over 1895. Returns show that there were 62 companies in the Dominion, many of them doing private business chiefly, and taking no account of the number of messages transmitted. Some of these are in process of absorption. There are 38 companies which may be deemed to be distinct, and to be doing a public telephone business. These despatched 156,217,627 messages, which is equal to 82-10 messages per diem for each subscriber. In 1895 the average was 59-10 messages.

General Telephone Matters.

A telephone line is to be built from Cambridge, the new Fish river camp, to Thompson's Landing in B.C., which it will connect with the line from Trout Lake to Revelstoke.

Dr. Haanel, the new Dominion Superintendent of Mines, while he was a professor at Victoria College, Cobourg, Ont., about 30 years ago, constructed a telephone inside the building and exhibited it to a party of friends. This