

The G. N. W.'s President.

The accompanying illustrations are made from photographs of H. P. Dwight, taken in 1861 & 1898 respectively. Mr. Dwight was born in Belleville, Jefferson county, N.Y., Dec. 23, 1828. He left home at the age of 14 with a capital of 50 cents & started life in a country store in Fulton. In 1847, the first year of its existence, Mr. Dwight secured a position as operator with the Montreal Telegraph Co., at Montreal, where he remained until 1850, occupying at the time of his departure the position of chief operator. While stationed at Montreal the great cholera plague of Quebec broke out & the telegraph office at that point was abandoned. Mr. Dwight volunteered his services & remained in charge of the office there during the whole of that disastrous epidemic. In 1850 he was removed to Toronto, where for the first year he was sole operator. Extensions throughout Western Ontario were planned & executed by him, until the lines of the Co. reached out in every direction. The business soon assumed very extensive proportions, & Mr. Dwight was in a few years appointed General Western Superintendent. On the amalgamation of the Montreal & Dominion companies, in 1881, under the charter of the Great North-Western Telegraph Co., Mr. Dwight was chosen General Manager of the combined systems, & in 1892 was elected President; since which he has occupied the dual office of President & General Manager.

Canada stands second to no country in the world in regard to the cheapness & efficiency of its telegraph system, & this fact is due in a great measure to the foresight & executive ability of Mr. Dwight, who inaugurated the present low rates of transmission which the country enjoys, and under which it is possible to send a message 1500 miles for 25 cents. Mr. Dwight rendered signal service to the country at the time of the Fenian Raid, & also during the Northwest Rebellion, & for the latter service was publicly thanked in the House of Commons by the Minister of Militia.

Aside from the telegraph business, Mr. Dwight has taken a very active part in a number of important enterprises. He was for a number of years a director of the Midland Ry., and is now President of the Birkbeck Investment Co.; Vice-President of the Canadian General Electric Co., & Director of the Toronto Electric Light Co. He is also Chairman of the Investigating Governors of the Royal Canadian Humane Association, & a member of the Ontario Fish & Game Commission. He is a keen sportsman, & a man of broad sympathies.

Telegraph Office Changes.

C.P.R. TELEGRAPH.

OPENED: Montford Jct., Que.; Thessalon Station, Ont.; Leduc, N.W.T.; Beresford, Man.; Turner, Maine; Irishman's Creek, B.C.; 111-Mile House, B.C.; Duck Lake, B.C.

CLOSED: Henryville, Que.; Mount Brydges, Ont.; Sebringville, Ont.; Ferrona, N.S.; McLeod Station, N.W.T.; Bridge Creek, B.C.; Vanceboro, Maine.

GREAT NORTH-WESTERN.

OPENED: Dunrae, Man.; Elgin, Man.; Minto, Man.; Ninette, Man.; Waupoos, Ont.; Aylwin, Que.; St. Lin, Que.

CLOSED: Selby, Ont.; Tobermory, Ont.

Notice is given of application to the B.C. Legislature to incorporate a company to build telegraph & telephone lines from the south end of Teslin Lake, to Victoria via Glenora & Telegraph Creek.

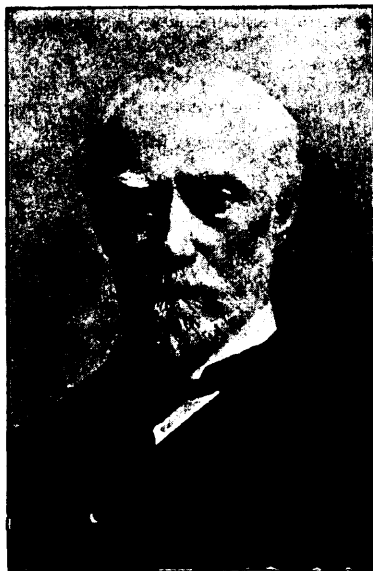
Telegraph & Cable Notes.

The G.N.W.'s chief office in Montreal has been considerably improved by new entrances, marble steps & interior changes.

Sir Sandford Fleming has addressed a letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies advocating the adoption of a system of state-owned cables connecting every British possession & all Great Britain's naval coaling stations. Sir Sandford proposes 3 sections of



H. P. DWIGHT IN 1861.



H. P. DWIGHT IN 1898.

cables, in the Pacific, Indian & Atlantic oceans, & estimates their cost at £6,000,000. The first step he suggests is a state-owned Pacific cable. He contends that if his proposals were carried out the cost of cabling would be enormously cheapened.

The Morning Post has been urging Colonial Secretary Chamberlain to publish the report of the commission on the Pacific cable question. It would seem, however, that he has been forced to hold over the publication of the report till he knows definitely whether or not the colonies will join in paying their share of the expense of the cable service. Certain proposals are under consideration, & Canada's reply is waited for with the hope that she will see her way to take her part in the scheme—

& to make her decision quickly. The arrangement of the whole matter is said to depend on Canada.

The annual supply of telegraph poles for the British telegraph system, which is under the control of the British post office, amounts to about 100,000 poles, & come chiefly from Norway & Sweden. The specifications have recently been changed so as to include Canadian wood if otherwise meeting the requirements. Any person in Canada desiring to tender for supplying should direct inquiries for information to the Controller of Stores, Postoffice Telegraphs, General Postoffice, London, E.C., Eng., & also to the Engineer-in-chief, General Postoffice, London, E.C., Eng.; they require 25,000 poles immediately.

The C.P.R. Co. recently appealed against the assessment as reality of the switchboard & instruments installed in the Toronto office for daily use. The judge dismissed the appeal, finding these things essential to the operation of the system. "The instruments themselves have no use or particular value detached from the connection with the telegraph wires, for they, too, become silent, & of no commercial value, but when united with the wires they form, with the poles & wires, one indivisible whole, a practical working telegraph line." The price & value of the instruments had been agreed upon between the parties, so that their assessability was the only question raised.

TELEPHONE MATTERS.

Bell Telephone Co.

The Co. has arranged an exclusive franchise for 5 years in London, Ont. The city is to receive \$1,000 a year & reduced telephone rates. Business telephones are to be \$40 instead of \$45 a year, residence 'phones \$20 instead of \$30, & doctor's & dentists' 'phones \$25 instead of \$35. The People's Co. has withdrawn from the field. The Bell Co. is erecting an exchange building in London.

After a squabble lasting since last June the Town Council of Windsor, Ont., has finally settled the telephone question, & the Bell Co. has won. Though the rival People's Co. dropped out some time ago, some members of the Council opposed to the Bell Co. continued to block the proceedings & to prevent the Co. from securing the franchise. The by-law has, however, been finally passed. The franchise given dates from June last & is for 5 years.

In St. Thomas, Ont., as elsewhere, the People's Telephone Co. did not materialize & the offer of the Bell Co. has been accepted as follows: To pay the city \$250 a year for 5 years; free 'phone at the hospital, reduced rate for 'phone at waterworks, 1 free 'phone at city hall, rates for residences \$20 a year, & when 3 are on a line, \$15 a year.

In the case of Bonn against the Bell Co. at Chatham, Ont., recently \$325 damages were awarded plaintiff, who claimed \$8,000 for injuries sustained in a runaway accident at Wallaceburg, when his buggy collided with one of the Co.'s poles.

The Bell Co. recently appealed to County Judges Macdougall, Dartnell & McGibbon against the assessment of its Toronto plant by the city. Last year the city lumped the assessment of the Co.'s property outside the land & buildings as "personal property, \$100,000." This year this was increased by over \$500,000. The judges reduced the assessment by over \$500,000, & the assessment is now fixed at \$102,550 instead of \$638,649. There were no legal points in dispute in the matter, the question at issue being simply one of values. The following table shows the details of the reduction made by the judges: