

the usual code, at the same time that two persons were conversing over the wire, and there was absolutely no confusion of the two systems. After the system has been more extensively tested, it may, if it proves as successful as is now hoped, be adopted in connection with the transcontinental telephone system, which the Co. is gradually installing. A line from Tacoma to Seattle has just been completed. The N.P.R. now has about 175 miles of telephone wires in use.

The lines owned by the Columbia Telephone and Telegraph Co., and its subsidiary company, the Northwest Telephone Co., have been leased to R. K. Houlgate, Manager in Canada of the British Columbia Telephones (Ltd.) The Columbia Co.'s lines extend from Rossland to Camp McKinney, Cascade, Grand Forks, Phoenix, Greenwood and Midway, B.C. Mr. Houlgate says the U.S. connection will be the Pacific States Telephone Co. and its leased lines, and there will be a harmonious working with the Vernon and Nelson Telephone Co., which operates a line in practically the same territory as the Columbia Co. It is proposed to extend the lines through the Okanagan and Similkameen districts, and on to the coast, where connection will be made with the B.C. Telephones' subsidiary, the New Westminster and Burrard Inlet Telephone Co., which owns the exchanges at New Westminster and Vancouver, with connections also to Puget Sound points. A submarine telephone cable will be laid to Victoria, immediately. The mileage controlled by the British Columbia Telephones (Ltd.) is 500 miles.

The Eastern Telephone Co. (Ltd.), which was incorporated by the Nova Scotia Legislature in 1890, was given power by an amending act passed last session, to sell all or any part of its undertaking to any person, firm or corporation, subject to the approval of a two-thirds majority of its shareholders present at a general or special meeting called for that purpose. The annual meeting of the Co. was held Aug. 22, when the following directors were re-elected:—R. A. H. McKeen, President; Judge Dodd, vice-president; J. E. Burchell, B. Archibald, and J. R. Hackett. There were also added to the board: Capt. J. Lorway, W. Crowe, B. W. Chipman, and R. Uniacke, of Halifax, representing the Nova Scotia Telephone Co., which has acquired a considerable proportion of the \$100,000 of new capital created by a special resolution passed at the meeting. The total capital of the Co. is now \$150,000, the additional amount authorized being required for the purpose of improving the local service, and providing for an extension of the Co.'s lines throughout Cape Breton to the Strait of Canso, where they will meet those of the Nova Scotia Telephone Co., thus making through connection with Halifax. The new issue of stock consists of 10,000 shares of \$10 each, and is reported to have all been subscribed. Some changes were made in the by-laws, and an agreement was signed with the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. dealing with the building of the long distance line.

A new cable has been laid between Pelee Island, Lake Erie, and the mainland, for the Dominion Government, under the supervision of J. F. Richardson, chief electrician of the C.P.R. Co.'s Telegraph. There had been in operation a cable previously laid from the Island to Point Pelee on the mainland, but owing to the rocky condition of the shore, it seldom stood the ice during one winter. This cable was taken up, and the bad portion taken out, nine miles of deep sea cable spliced on the good portion, and the renewed cable relaid more to the westward, where a sandy or clay bottom extends between the island and the mainland. The new cable and its shore connection to Leamington is 16¾ miles in length, a somewhat longer mileage

than by the old cable. There is 13½ miles of line on the island. The maintenance of communication between the island and the mainland is of great importance during the winter-time owing to the dangerous crossing for the mail. The cable and its land connection on Pelee island are worked as a telephone circuit. Pelee island is counted as one office, although there are four telephone stations on the island,

viz., at Pelee island light, north dock, west dock and south end. Business is interchanged with the C.P.R. Co.'s telegraph, the G.N.W. Telegraph and the Bell Telephone Co., the rate being 25c from Leamington. The line is in charge of J. McC. R. Selkirk, District Superintendent of Government Telegraphs at Leamington, who is also agent for the Bell Telephone Co.

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No Admittance.

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