

lease of the Government telegraph lines on Vancouver Island, in trust for a company to be known as the British Pacific Telegraph Co. Application for the incorporation of a Company with this title has been made to the Dominion Government. The proposed capital of the Company is \$25,000, and its chief office will be in Victoria, B.C. The lease of the lines is for 21 years, but the Government may terminate it at any time upon compensating the Company. Under the terms of the lease the Company agrees to maintain the lines in an efficient state, to give the Government free transmission for its messages, and to make an annual payment by way of rental. According to the report of the General Superintendent of Telegraphs for the year ended June 30, 1903, the total length of the Government telegraph lines on Vancouver Island was 382¼ miles, with 20 offices. The expenditure during the year was \$6,463.49 for construction and improvements, \$2,381.96 for repairs, and \$11,398.74 for salaries and maintenance, a total of \$20,244.19; whilst the total income during the same period was \$2,968.88. Following are particulars of the several lines:

The Victoria-Cape Beale line, 118 miles long, was constructed in 1891, and extends from Victoria to Cape Beale along the south and west coast of the island, with offices at Sooke, Otter Point, Jordan River, Port San Juan, Carmanah lighthouse and Cape Beale. The superintendence of this line has been in the hands of the Resident Engineer at Victoria since Oct., 1901, when the arrangement theretofore in operation with the C.P.R. Telegraphs was terminated. The salary list is \$3,660 a year, and the expenditure for 1902-3 was \$2,381.96 for repairs, and \$4,607.21 for salaries and maintenance, while the total receipts were \$424.09. The average yearly number of messages handled is 800.

The Nanaimo-Comox line, 81 miles long, was constructed in 1893, and extends from Nanaimo to Comox along the eastern coast, and has offices at Nanaimo, Wellington, Parksville, Union Bay, Union Mines, Cumberland, Courtney and Comox. The repairs of this line have been done jointly with the C.P.R. Telegraphs since Dec. 1, 1902. The salary list is \$2,766 a year, and the expenditure for 1902-3 was \$3,817, the receipts being \$2,430.46.

The Parksville, Alberni and Cape Beale line, 86½ miles long, extends from Parksville on the Nanaimo-Comox line to Alberni, to which point it was completed in 1895, thence to Cape Beale, which point was reached in 1899. There are only two offices on the line. The salary list is \$480, and the total expenditure for salaries and maintenance for 1902-3 was \$1,118, while the total receipts were \$13.16. The average yearly number of messages handled over this line and the Nanaimo-Comox line is 8,000.

The Alberni-Clayoquot line, 96¼ miles in length, extends from Alberni to Clayoquot, crossing Franklin Creek by a half mile of cable, and giving a private cable connection with Stubbs Island, from Clayoquot. The line was completed in 1902, and offices were opened at New Alberni, Ucluelet and Clayoquot. There was expended on construction and improvements during 1902-3 \$6,463.49, and \$1,856.53 on staff and maintenance, whilst the receipts amounted to \$91.17. The average yearly number of messages handled is 550.

General Telephone Matters.

The Bell Telephone Co.'s exchange at Smith's Falls, Ont., was burned out Mar. 27.

The Vernon and Nelson Telephone Co. is applying to change its name to the B.C. Telephone Co.

The Bell Telephone Co. has completed a new copper metallic line from Simcoe to Port Rowan, Ont.

The Bell Telephone Co. has been approached by a deputation of residents along the Gatineau Valley who desire a telephone connection with Ottawa.

The East Grey Telephone Co. is being formed at Kimberley, Ont., for the purpose of constructing a local telephone line between Thornbury and Markdale, and also to give a connection to Kolapore, Redwing, Duncan and Heathcote.

Local telephone lines are projected in British Columbia from Armstrong to Penticton, and from Kelowna to Vernon. A company is being promoted at Vernon to construct one or both of these lines, and M. K. Rogers, of the Nickel Plate Mine, Hedley, proposes to construct a line from Hedley to Penticton if the other lines are constructed.

The International Telephone Co., press reports state, has completed arrangements whereby Victoria and other points on Vancouver Island are to be given a connection with points in Washington Territory and Oregon. It is proposed to lay a cable across the strait from the U.S. mainland to Vancouver Island. Jas. Forman, of Heisterman & Co., Victoria, B.C., had charge of the negotiations in that city.

Replying to the Ottawa city council's decision to grant an exclusive franchise for five years on certain terms, the Bell Telephone Co. submitted an amended offer by which house telephones would be supplied at \$20 each on four party lines, and at \$25 each on exclusive lines, and offered to pay \$1,500, being the amount it would have paid had its previous franchise not expired a year ago. The Canadian Telegraph and Telephone Co. has submitted a revised offer to supply house telephones at \$18.

Representatives of the Bell Telephone Co. and of the other electrical companies in Montreal recently had a conference with the special committee of the Montreal city council which has in charge the conduit proposal. The Bell Telephone Co. has an extensive conduit system in the city at present, and President Sise was anxious to find out how the city would deal with it. The city council had opposed the construction of conduits previously and the Company had to obtain an order of the Privy Council to authorize it. The chairman of the committee gave an assurance that compensation would be granted in case existing conduits were taken up by the city, and that all extensions and improvements necessary would be made by the city.

In connection with the proposal to provide a memorial at Brantford, Ont., to Prof. Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, a suggestion has been made that a piece of ground known as the Willows be purchased and cleared for use as a public park and play ground. The park would be named the Telephone Park, and a monument could be erected when there were sufficient funds on hand. W. F. Cockshutt, chairman of the committee having the matter in charge at Brantford, recently received a letter from Mr. Bell in which he said that although much of the perfecting was done in the United States, the invention of the telephone took original shape while he was living at Tutela Heights, close to Brantford.

The long distance telephone line between Halifax and Sydney, N.S., which has been under construction for the last two years, by the Nova Scotia Telephone Co., Halifax, and the Eastern Telephone Co., Sydney, which was completed and placed in operation Mar. 15, is 292 miles in length. It follows the main road from Halifax, via Truro, New Glasgow, Antigonish, and Auld's Cove to Cape Porcupine. A submarine cable about a mile in length makes the connection with the Cape Breton shore of the Strait of Canso at Port Hastings. The line is then carried along the

main road via West Bay, Orangedale and Iona to Grand Narrows, including a submarine cable ¾ miles in length, thence parallel with the Intercolonial Ry. to Leitch's Creek, from whence it goes direct to Sydney. At Auld's Cove there is a branch of about four miles in length connecting with Mulgrave; at Port Hastings there is a branch line to Port Hawkesbury. Connection is made at Antigonish with the Antigonish and Sherbrooke Telephone Co.; at Port Hawkesbury with lines running to St. Peter's and Arichat; at Orangedale with Marble Mountain, Whycocomagh and Baddeck; and at Sydney with North Sydney, Sydney Mines, Glace Bay and Louisburg. There were used in the construction of the line 13,000 cedar poles, and 102,000 lbs. of copper wire. Porcelain insulators have been used as being less liable to break than those made of glass. The line was constructed from Halifax to the Strait of Canso by the Nova Scotia Telephone Co., and from Sydney to the Strait of Canso by the Eastern Telephone Co., the cable connecting the two lines being laid at the joint cost of the two companies. The cost of the line is placed at about \$90,000. The rate is \$1.25 for a three-minute conversation between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., and 65c. for three minutes' conversation between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Telephone Rates in the U.S.

In connection with the discussion of telephone rates, etc., in Toronto, the following schedule of rates which are being charged by the Bell Telephone Co. of the U.S. in cities about the same size as Toronto, will be of interest. These rates are obtained from an authoritative source, and are for unlimited service, metallic circuit lines and solid back transmitters:

	Population.	Business.	Residence.
Rochester	163,000	\$ 60 00	\$48 00
St. Paul	163,000	84 00	48 00
Kansas City	163,000	96 00	42 00
Indianapolis	170,000	72 00	48 00
Providence	176,000	96 00	78 00
Minneapolis	202,000	84 00	48 00
Louisville	204,000	96 00	42 00
Jersey City	206,000	150 00	75 00
Newark	247,000	150 00	75 00
Washington	279,000	125 00	72 00
Milwaukee	285,000	96 00	60 00
Detroit	285,000	80 00	66 00
New Orleans	287,000	120 00	60 00

The rate usually fixed in the ordinances of independent telephone companies in the U.S. has been \$48 and \$30. The tendency has been to increase these rates on the ground that they are unprofitable. The last important franchise granted to an independent company in the U.S. was at Kansas City, the rate being fixed at \$60 for business and \$48 for residence. Kansas City district includes the two cities of that name in Kansas and Missouri.

PURCHASING AGENTS' GUIDE.

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Printing	
The Hunter, Rose Co.	Toronto.
The Mail Job Printing Company	Toronto.
Pumps	
Rice Lewis & Son	Toronto.
Rail Benders, Roller	
Montreal Steel Works	Montreal.
Railway Supplies	
The Hiram L. Piper Co.	Montreal.
The N. L. Piper Railway Supply Co.	Toronto.
Rails (Low)	
James Cooper	Montreal.
Drummond, McCall & Co.	Montreal.
J. J. Gartshore	Toronto.
W. H. C. Mussen & Co.	Montreal.
Rails (for relaying)	
James Cooper	Montreal.
J. J. Gartshore	Toronto.
T. A. Morrison & Co.	Montreal.
W. H. C. Mussen & Co.	Montreal.
Rice Lewis & Son	Toronto.
Jas. W. Pyke & Co.	Montreal.