

Department of Public Works.

The British Columbia lines are the Ashcroft-Barkerville, the Victoria to Cape Beale, the Nanaimo to Comox and the Alberni-Nanaimo connections. The line in Ontario gives connection between Leamington, Pelee Point and points on Pelee Island. The Quebec system of telegraph is divided into five sections, that from Baie St. Paul to Chicoutimi, the River and Gulf line from Murray Bay to Pointe aux Esquimaux, the Quarantine line from Quebec to Grosse Ile, and the Anticosti and Magdalen Islands systems. In New Brunswick, the Government lines give communication between Chatham and Escuminac, and also between Eastport and Campbell, Grand Manan, Cheney's and Whitehead Islands.

The Nova Scotia lines extend from North Sydney to Meat Cove, whence connection is made with the Magdalen Islands and St. Paul's Islands by cables. There is also telegraphic communication under Government control between Mabou and Cheticamp, as well as between Barrington and Cape Sable. Lastly, may be mentioned the lines in the North-west Territories extending from Qu'Appelle to Edmonton and St. Albert, a distance of 607½ miles, and that between Moosejaw and Wood Mountain, 90½ miles.

The several lines of telegraph have been maintained to the required standard of efficiency throughout the year, the repair and maintenance work having been executed under the direct superintendence of the officers of this department.

Preparations have been made for the extension eastward of the line constructed on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, and it is the intention during the next fiscal year to carry it as far as Natashquan, an estimated distance of 84 miles.

GENERALLY.

The total volume of correspondence handled by the department during the fiscal year under review, amounts in round figures to about 25,000 letters received, 20,000 sent and nearly 11,000 cheques issued.

The appended reports submitted by the officers at the head of the several branches of the department, may be condensed as follows:—

The works specially under the control of the department and dealt with in this report are—

- Building (public) their construction and maintenance.
- Dredging and dredge vessels.
- Graving docks.
- Harbours and piers, their improvement and construction.
- Roads and bridges.
- Slides and booms.
- Telegraphs.
- Works on navigable rivers.

In addition to a general index, the principal appendices, and this report, are alphabetically arranged.

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

TITLES:—A list of such Acts as were passed by the Parliament of Canada, at the session which closed on the 23rd day of April, 1896, having reference to the department will be found in Appendix No. 5, page 191.