

Among the Express Companies.

A. C. Egan has been appointed Travelling Auditor Canadian Northern Ex. Co., vice L. F. Muncey, who has been transferred to other duties.

J. H. O'Connor has been appointed agent Dominion Ex. Co., Winnipeg, succeeding W. M. Gordon, General Agent, appointed Superintendent Western Division.

A Montreal despatch says express companies' employees are forming a union, and that a demand will be made for the longest run for messengers not to exceed ten hours, for a 9 hour day for drivers, porters and clerks, and for 10 days holiday annually with full pay.

F. P. Brady, General Superintendent Canadian Government Railways, and member of the C.G.R. Managing Board, is reported to have been in conference with V. G. R. Vickers, Superintendent Dominion Ex. Co., Montreal, recently at St. John, N.B., as to the handling of express matter by the I.C.R.

The Board of Railway Commissioners heard a complaint from the Niagara district fruit growers, July 7, against the Canadian Ex. Co., regarding rates from Queenston, which, it was stated, had been advanced from 30c. to 40c. per 100 lbs. In delivering judgment, Chief Commissioner Mabee said that the whole matter of express rates is under consideration, and it was understood that while the matter was pending the existing rates would be maintained. He continued that the Commission has no power to compel the express companies to accept freight, but would issue an order confirming the 30c. rate. The order is given on another page.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has decided, in the matter of contracts of express companies for free transportation of their men and material over railways, that a railway company may lawfully transport the men and supplies of an express company without reference to any tariff provision when employed or used in the business of the express company upon the line of the railway itself, and in the same manner an express company may lawfully transport the packages of a railway company between points upon that line of railway without reference to its tariff rates, and further that a railway company may not lawfully transport men and supplies of an express company when employed or used in the business of that company at points not on the line of railway, and an express company may not lawfully transport for a railway packages between points on its route but not on that particular line of railway.

Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co.

The annual meeting of the shareholders was held in London, Eng., June 28, when the report for the year 1908 was presented. During the year the company made substantial progress. The fresh capital obtained enabled the directors to meet current engagements and to provide for the expenditure required to complete the transatlantic stations at Clifden, Ireland, and Glace Bay, N.S., and in addition allowed the carrying out of the scheme of reorganization of the works which were now on a thoroughly profitable working basis. As soon as the British Post Office authorities give effect to the agreement relative to the acceptance and delivery of Marconi transatlantic messages at all telegraph offices in the

United Kingdom, G. Marconi will visit Glace Bay preparatory to the completion and duplication of that station. The directors regret that they are not able to declare a dividend, but feel that the prospects and position of the company are highly satisfactory and promising, and confidently anticipate that the dividend paying period will be speedily entered upon. In closing their remarks the directors mention the enormous service that wireless telegraphy renders to ships in distress, mentioning the loss of the s.s. Republic and also the wreck of the s.s. Slavonia.

Telegraph and Cable Matters.

C. Mackay, President Mackay Companies, has denied that his company has secured control of the Western Union Telegraph Co.

The directors of the Montreal Telegraph Co. at a recent meeting adopted a resolution expressing their sorrow at the death of A. T. Paterson, Vice President, and placing on record their appreciation of his services.

Sir Sandford Fleming, who sailed for England on the C.P.R. s.s. Empress of Ireland, July 2, will, it is reported, consult the British Government on the question of an additional, or cheaper, cable communication as discussed at the recent Imperial Press Conference there.

It is reported that satisfactory progress has been made with the extension of the Government telegraph line from Athabasca Landing, Alta., westward to Lesser Slave Lake. During last winter, poles were cut for the entire distance and the work of erecting them and stringing wires was commenced early in June, and about 20 miles completed about the middle of the month.

An experiment is reported to be contemplated to establish a wireless telegraph station on the Peel River, about 2,000 miles north of Edmonton, Alta., to provide direct communication between the Arctic circle east of the divide and other centres. The report states the communication will take place between Warn's Camp at Peel River and Seattle, Wash., by relays at Eagle, Valdez and Vancouver.

G. Marconi, in speaking at a meeting of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. in London, Eng., recently, is reported to have said that no doubt a very great extension of the trans-atlantic service might be anticipated. As soon as the duplicate station in Canada was completed his company would be able to accept from 15,000 to 20,000 words a day.

The work of laying an extension cable of 300 miles from Newfoundland to join an existing Atlantic cable of the Commercial Cable Co. has been taken in hand. The cable ship Colonia is in charge of the operation. The company has completed an insurance in connection with the work of £185,000, which, added to the insurance already in force on the vessel, makes a total insurance of £300,000.

At the recent Imperial Press Conference in London, Eng., G. Marconi said that the cost of equipping two stations for communication over a distance, already tested, of 3,000 miles would be £100,000. The speed of transmission at present is 25 words a minute, but he hoped by duplexing to double it. His company, he stated, would, if the service increased, be prepared to reduce the cost of press messages to 2d. a word.

The Late O. S. Wood.

O. S. Wood, who recently died at Turner, N.Y., aged 91, was, in 1847, Superintendent Montreal Telegraph Co., and subsequently General Superintendent until 1866, when he engaged in similar work in the U.S. In referring to Mr. Wood's death, in the Telegraph Age, H. P. Dwight, President G.N.W. Telegraph Co., Toronto, writes as follows:—"I came as a very youthful operator to Mr. Wood, who had been appointed Superintendent of the Montreal Telegraph Co.'s line just erected between Montreal and Toronto, in August, 1847, and remained with him in the Montreal office until 1850, when he sent me to take charge of the Toronto office and the western extensions which were being started in different directions—the beginning of a system since grown to be a network of lines covering the Province of Ontario. Mr. Wood received his instructions as an operator directly from Professor Morse in 1844, and was his first pupil—an honor and privilege which his after life fully justified—and it may be properly said that every Morse operator living may feel honored in the memory of such irreproachable characters as those of Professor Morse and O. S. Wood, the first and chief progenitors of a business since grown to such a marvellous extent, and which has done so much to facilitate the business and promote the happiness of the world. Although it is half a century since Mr. Wood's retirement from the Canadian business and his return to the U.S., his memory is still cherished not only by the very few still living who had the honor of his personal acquaintance, but his name is still a familiar household word among the Canadian telegraph fraternity, who never saw him, and only know of him by tradition. I am sometimes called by the Canadian papers of these latter days 'the Father of Canadian Telegraphs,' but I never fail to tell my friends that whatever may be said in this respect, the Grandfather of the Canadian telegraph system was O. S. Wood."

Dominion Telegraph Company.

Following is the balance sheet for the year ended June 30, 1909, presented at the 40th annual meeting, at Toronto, July 14:—

ASSETS.	
Capital expenditure	\$1,281,819 47
Toronto, Grey and Bruce Ry. Co.	
1983 bonds and interest thereon	1,596 24
Cash in bank and on hand	26,935 73
	\$1,310,351 44
LIABILITIES.	
Capital stock paid up	\$1,000,000 00
Dividends unclaimed	1,399 90
Dividend payable July 15, 1909..	15,000 00
Suspense	97 13
	\$1,016,497 03
Balance at credit of profit and loss	293,854 41
	\$1,310,351 44

The directors reported that payment had been made quarterly, in advance, for the past 30 years, of the guaranteed interest of 6% per annum on the capital stock of the company, by the Western Union Telegraph Co., lessees, and distributed quarterly to the shareholders. The lease is for 99 years from July 1, 1879, to June 30, 1978, inclusive.

The officers and directors for the current year are: President, T. Swinyard; Vice President, Sir Henry M. Pellatt; other directors, B. Brooks, T. F. Clark, R. C. Clowry, Æ. Jarvis, C. O'Reilly, and A. G. Ramsay; Secretary and Treasurer, W. Roper.