

Mount Royal, C. R. Hosmer, T. Skinner, C. H. Mackay, A. B. Chandler & D. Clarke. The officers are: J. W. Mackay, president; G. G. Ward, Vice-President & General Manager; C. R. Hosmer, A. B. Chandler & C. H. Mackay, Vice-Presidents; E. C. Platt, Treasurer; Albert Beck, Secretary, & J. O. Stevens, Assistant Secretary.

Canada's Telegraph History.

The semaphore telegraphic system was early in use in Canada. A semaphore was established in 1809 between Isle Vert & Quebec City for the purpose of signalling vessels.

The first telegraph wire strung in the Dominion was put up by the Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara & St. Catharines Telegraph Co. in 1847. It was a simple insulated wire. In the same year a line connected Montreal and Quebec. In 1848 Nova Scotia & New Brunswick were supplied with their first telegraphic communication. The first electric telegraph office in St. John, N.B., was opened in Jan., 1849. The first month's receipts were \$56.

The first proposal to the Government to build a telegraphic line across the continent from Montreal to the Pacific Ocean was made by the Atlantic & Pacific Transit Telegraph Co. The proposal was made to the Imperial Government & was recommended by the Governor-General in his speech on the opening of Parliament in 1863. It was not entertained by the Canadian Legislature because that body thought that a post-road ought to be built simultaneously with the telegraph line.

The Montreal Telegraph Co. paid its first dividend on Jan. 14, 1848. On Aug. 17, 1881, it agreed to an arrangement with the Western Union, by virtue of which the latter company guaranteed for 97 years 8% annual dividends. The Western Union in 1867 leased the New Brunswick & Nova Scotia lines.

The charter of the C.P.R. Co., granted in 1881, conferred upon that Co. the franchise of a telegraphic system for general business.

When the Dominion began in 1867, there were within its borders 497 offices, 7,227 miles of line and 9,040 miles of wire. During the year 600,770 messages were sent.—From Alphabet of First Things in Canada, by Geo. Johnson, F.S.S.

Government Telegraph Lines.

The estimates recently submitted to the Dominion Parliament for the fiscal year 1898-9, provide for \$20,600 for telegraph lines as follows:

Land line on north shore of St. Lawrence, Que., to improve roadway, repair line & increase operating facilities generally, between Godbout & Pointe aux Esquimaux \$1,000.00.

Land line on the north shore of St. Lawrence—Extension from Pointe aux Esquimaux eastward, \$15,000.00.

Alternative line connecting Cape Beale & Carmenah with Victoria, B.C., by extending the French Creek, Alberni Line, southwardly to the south-west coast of Vancouver Island, \$4,600.00.

The 1st item is a decrease of \$2,000 as compared with 1897-8, the 2nd item is a decrease of \$4,000, & the 3rd item is a revote. The total appropriation is \$11,600 less than for 1897-8.

VANCOUVER-NANAIMO CABLE.—The C.P.R. Co's S.S. Tartar arrived at Vancouver, April 1, from Southampton, having on board the C.P.R. Co's cable to be laid between Vancouver City & Vancouver Island. The cable was successfully laid on April 6, under the supervision of F. B. Gerrard, of the Commercial Cable Co.'s staff.

Telegraph Office Changes.

GREAT NORTHWESTERN.

Opened: St. Brigade, Que.
Closed: Massawippi, Que.; Notre Dame des Anges, Que.; St. Placide, Que.

CANADIAN PACIFIC.

OPENED:—Bathurst, Ont.; Blairton, Ont.; Hammond, Ont.; St. Polycarpe, Que.
CLOSED:—Gericola, B.C.; Ross Peak, B.C.; Midway, Man.; Rosebank, Man.; Pasqua, Assa.; Lansdowne, Ont.; Maitland, Ont.; Deschambault Station, Que.; Piles Jct., Que.; St. Sebastian, Que.

The Western Union Telegraph Co. has declared a dividend of 1¼% payable April 15.

The Train Dispatchers' Association of America will hold its convention in Montreal June 14.

It is said the increases to telegraphers on the C.P.R. under the recent arrangement will amount in the aggregate to \$73,000 a year.

The Dominion Telegraph Co's. guaranteed dividend at the rate of 6% per annum, for the quarter ended March 31, will be payable April 15.

The Manitoba District Telegraph & Delivery Co., particulars of which were published last month on page 20, has been granted incorporation by the Manitoba Government.

The Compagnie Francaise des Cables Télégraphiques has agreed to lay a new cable immediately from Brest to New York, in consideration of an annual subsidy of about \$150,000.

At the recent conference of Colonial premiers in Melbourne, Australia, it was resolved that if Great Britain and Canada contributed ⅓ of the cost of the proposed Pacific cable, Australia should contribute the remainder.

Superintendent Jaynes says the Western Union Telegraph Co. has not abandoned its proposed extension to Victoria, B.C., but that the cable is being manufactured, & will be laid by the time that the land line from Seattle, now under construction, is completed.

The Spanish Government is arranging for communication with Cuba over neutral cables in the event of a rupture of relations with the U.S. This is feasible by way of Halifax, Bermuda & Jamaica, using the new British cable, but the French Co., possessing an unladen cable, offers to connect Spain direct with Cuba within a few weeks. Negotiations with this company are proceeding.

VANCOUVER ISLAND CABLE.—The Western Union Telegraph Co. expects to have its line to Victoria, B.C., in operation by May 1. The line will be constructed via Port Gamble & Port Ludlow. Seven cable connections, ranging from ½ a mile to 17½ miles, or a total of 30½ miles of cable, will be necessary. The longest stretch of cable will be from Port Angeles to Victoria, 17½ miles.

At the last annual meeting of the Montreal Telegraph Co., the assets were stated to be \$2,263,030, the excess over shareholders' capital being \$151,823.85. The contingent fund is \$70,869.11. It was decided that when the contingent fund reaches such a figure as will yield a yearly revenue of \$5,000, that amount shall be divided among the shareholders, which will give 3 additional dividends of about ¼ of 1%. A. Allan, H. Mackenzie, J. Joseph, W. Wainwright, H. Archibald, W. J. Withall & H. A. Allan were elected directors.

A. C. HENRY, Purchasing Agent C.P.R.:—"I am glad to hear you intend bringing out a publication devoted to the railway & shipping interests of Canada. It seems to me there should be a good field for it, & I should consider it a good medium for advertisers wishing to reach those classes."

TELEPHONES.

The Bell Telephone Co.'s Annual.

The report presented at the recent 18th annual meeting in Montreal gives these facts:—983 subscribers have been added during the year, the total number of sets of instruments now earning rental being 30,445. The Co. now owns & operates 349 exchanges & 261 agencies. 35 miles of poles & 703 miles of wire were added to the long distance system in 1897; of these 5 pole miles & 209 wire miles are in the Ontario department, & 30 pole miles & 494 wire miles are in the Eastern department. The long distance lines, now owned & operated by the Co., comprise 16,567 miles of wire on 6,095 miles of poles. Under authority of the shareholders, \$66,500 bonds were sold during the year, the premium thereon being 10%. Continuing the policy adopted in past years, the directors have charged to contingent fund \$150,000, that amount having been expended during the year on construction rendered necessary by the introduction of trolley & other strong current wires, but which has not increased the earning power of the plant.

REVENUE ACCOUNT, DECEMBER 31, 1897.

RECEIPTS.	
Exchanges	\$ 862,319 29
Long Distance Lines	229,917 98
Private Lines	12,619 01
Miscellaneous	80,828 93
	\$1,185,685 21

EXPENSES.	
Operating	\$ 825,038 94
Legal	7,725 51
Insurance	23,733 68
Bond Interest	45,683 30
Miscellaneous	3,752 21
	\$ 995,933 64

Net Revenue for 1897	\$ 279,751 57
Less Dividends (inc. Jan. 15, 1898)	253,440 00
	\$ 26,311 57
Balance Revenue from 1896	\$ 36,025 60
Carried forward to 1898	\$ 82,337 17

BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31, 1897.

Stock Account	\$3,168,000 00
Bond Account	940,000 00
Contingent Fund	\$ 950,000 00
Less transferred to Construction Account	150,000 00
	\$ 800,000 00
Revenue Account	82,364 17
Unearned Rental Reserve	163,541 66
Insurance Reserve	68,037 12
Accident Reserve	15,574 06
Bond Interest Reserve	11,750 00
Sundry Creditors	287,789 09
Bond Premium	6,650 00
	\$5,543,706 10

Plant & Patents, 31st December, 1896	\$4,202,567 00
Purchase of Patents, 1897	1,767 00
Construction, 1897	\$341,214 09
Less Contingent Fund	150,000 00
	191,214 09

Plant & Patents, 31st December, 1897	\$4,395,548 88
Stores on hand	169,079 44
Real Estate	649,295 73
Stock in other Companies	164,731 50
Sundry Debtors	40,897 87
Due from Agencies	74,858 91
Cash	49,293 77
	\$5,543,706 10

The following were elected directors:—C. F. Sise, R. Mackay, J. E. Hudson, R. Archer, W. R. Driver, H. Paton, C. Cassils, T. Sherwin.

The Co. has declared a dividend of 2% payable April 15.

The Bell Telephone Co. is having plans prepared for an exchange building to be built on St. John Street, Quebec.