

The telegraph companies will hereafter count "percent" as 1 word instead of 2 as formerly.

The Dominion Public Works Department is calling for tenders for the construction of a telegraph line from Spence's Bridge to Nicola, & from Kamloops to Nicola Lake.

The Commercial Telegraph Construction Syndicate, Ltd., was registered in London, Eng., Feb. 20th, with a capital of £5,000, to adopt an agreement with Hon. J. Roche, M.P., & to subscribe for or otherwise acquire & hold any shares, stock, or securities in the Northern Commercial Telegraph Co. incorporated in Canada.

The Michigan Supreme Court has decided that the Western Union Telegraph Co. is responsible for failure to promptly transmit & deliver a telephoned telegraph message, through which failure the complainant suffered a loss. The complainant had telephoned to the operator to send a message to Chicago directing a step in a wheat deal. The message was not delivered. The company claimed that the operator had no authority to receive the message by telephone, & that in so doing he was acting as an agent for the complainant; but the court held that the use of a convenience like the telephone should not be entirely at the risk of the patron.

Telephone Matters.

J. J. McGaffigan, St. John, N.B.; W. Ferguson, J. Young & P. Arseneau, Tracadie, & J. P. Sherry, Memramcook, are applying for incorporation as The Tracadie Telephone Co., Ltd., with a capital of \$2,000.

C. J. Milligan, St. John, N.B., gives notice of application to the Dominion Parliament for an Act authorizing the construction & operation of telephone lines from or near River du Loup, Que., to Sackville, N.B., & branch lines from the main line to other points in Quebec & New Brunswick.

The Columbia Telephone Co. is said to have let a contract for the construction of a telephone line from Trail to Camp McKinney, B.C. The line will run from Trail to the International Boundary line, where it will connect with the Spokane & B.C. Telephone Co.'s line to about 1½ miles below Cascade, where it will commence again, running through Cascade, Grand Forks, Niagara, Phoenix, Greenwood, Anaconda, Boundary Falls, Midway & Rock Creek to Camp McKinney, taking in all the mining camps of the Boundary Creek district. Exchanges are to be established at Trail, Rossland, Cascade, Grand Forks, Greenwood, and Republic. The line will be completed by July 1.

A London cablegram says an engineer named Germain, in the French Ministry of Posts & Telegraphs, has an invention which he claims will revolutionize the telephone. By an ingenious adaptation of the telephone wire the microphone is made to develop & intensify the vibration received so that it is unnecessary to place the receiver to the ear or stand with the mouth close to the transmitter, & conversation is easily carried on between two persons, both of whom may be several yards distant from the instrument. It is said the invention has been several times officially tested & pronounced a complete success. It is familiarly known as "high speaker."

The first experimental telephone line erected in Canada was from the residence of Prof. G. Bell's father in Brantford, Ont., to the residence of Rev. T. Henderson, in the same city. The first working any distance was one set up in 1875 by Prof. G. Bell between Paris & Brantford. The battery was in Toronto, some 60 or 70 miles from Paris. The first commercial telephone was established in

Hamilton in 1877.—Johnson's First Things in Canada.

The Financial Secretary of the British Treasury recently asked for a credit of \$10,000,000 to enable the Post Office Department to establish a telephone system in London. In explaining the proposal the Globe says that under the new law the Post Office Department will own & operate all municipal telephone systems by 1911, & by that time it will, as an act of fairness, buy up all the stock of the National Telephone Co. London is to have special treatment at once under the Swiss system of charging for telephones. In Switzerland the State owns the telephones. The subscriber pays \$20 for the 1st year, \$13.75 for the 2nd, & afterwards \$7.75 a year, & at the rate of \$1 per 100 calls. This charge according to calls is borne by the person calling, not by the one who is called. As the British Postmaster-General makes the subscription £3 a year, probably the calls will be less than a cent each. The Swiss system is designed with special regard for the convenience of the general public. Messages can be sent by non-subscribers from call offices & delivered to non-subscribers by express messengers; but persons who wish to save the journey to a call office to despatch a telephone message, or to receive it direct instead of by a written message, can secure a private telephone in their house or office on payment of the stipulated annual sum. For all messages actually sent, subscribers & the public alike pay the same fixed toll, smaller if the message is a local one, larger if it travels over the trunk wire; the price for all distances over trunk wires being the same. Each message sent by a subscriber is numbered, & an account against him is kept. It follows, under this system, that every telephone can be used by the general public instead of being confined to the actual subscriber, with the result that in many towns every shop or place of business which has a telephone becomes in practice a public call office. The National Telephone Co. owns 96,000 miles of wire, & the value placed on its entire plant is £3,000,000. That is the Government's estimate of the sum required to put the public telephone system in healthy operation. The work of absorption will be accomplished through the municipalities. In London the area to be treated as a unit covers 634 square miles, & possesses 19,000 public wires, one-fifth of the wires in the country. After its plant is brought under the control of the Postal Department the same course will be followed in other large cities.

Among the Express Companies.

T. E. Foard has been appointed Route Agent of the Western Ex. Co., with temporary headquarters at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., vice L. L. Stenseth assigned to other duties.

The road houses built by the Arctic Ex. Co. between White Horse & Dawson City, Yukon, have, it is said, been transferred to the Bennett Lake & Klondike Navigation Co.

General Manager Stout has issued the rules & regulations of the Dominion & Western Express Co.'s in very complete form. In the revision many important changes & additions have been made.

Money orders issued by the Western Ex. Co. will be cashed by the Southern Ex. Co. at Havana, Cuba, & such orders may be sold at domestic rates. Money orders issued by the Southern Ex. Co. at Havana, Cuba, will be redeemed by agents of the Western Ex. Co. & accounted for in the usual way.

The express business on the Spokane Falls & Northern Ry. system has been taken over by the Great Northern Ex. Co., & the Northern Pacific Ex. Co. has withdrawn & closed all its offices. Among the offices opened by

the Great Northern Ex. Co. are the following in British Columbia:—Kaslo, Nelson, Rossland, Sheep Creek, Waneta, Ymir. The N.P. Ex. Co. had 17 offices, so there are 11 less under the new arrangement.

Money orders are now issued at all offices of the Dominion Ex. Co., payable in Havana, Cuba, at rates charged for orders payable in the U.S., & such orders will be redeemed by Southern Ex. Co. Money orders issued by the Southern Ex. Co. at Havana, Cuba, will be redeemed by agents of the Dominion Co., & accounted for in the usual manner. Adams Ex. Co.'s Money Orders may be cashed by agents of the Dominion Co., & orders may be sold payable at all offices of the Adams Ex. Co.

The Alaska Pacific Ex. Co. gives notice of the following marine insurance rates:—From Dawson City, Yukon, or other intermediate express offices, to offices in British Columbia or the U.S., on Puget Sound, on gold dust, money, bullion, coin, etc., 1%. Between offices on Puget Sound & ports touched by steamers operated by the Co. in Alaska, not north of Lynn Canal (Juneau, Sitka, Skagway, Wrangle, etc.) on treasure, gold dust, bullion, coin, currency, etc., ¼ of 1%. Between last-named points, on merchandise, ½ of 1%.

The Dominion Express Co. gives notice that notes, drafts, accounts or bills, in any amount, may be received for collection, to be returned at the special rate, between all points on this Co.'s lines & the lines of Canadian Ex. Co. in Canada and the U.S. To & from offices of Western, Great Northern & Northern Pacific express companies a limit of \$400 will apply. To & from offices of American, National, Pacific, Southern, U.S. & Wells, Fargo & Co.'s express companies the limit in amount of such collections is \$100, except to exclusive offices of Wells, Fargo & Co. located west of Salt Lake, Utah, Albuquerque & Deeming, New Mexico, charge classification card rates, these special rates do not apply.

The Alaska Pacific Ex. Co. has arranged to send a dog team into Dawson City, Yukon, in charge of special messengers, leaving Skagway about April 1, & is prepared to accept in transfer from connecting companies at Seattle, & carry through to destination any light express matter. The rates for this special trip will be:—On merchandise, \$5 a pound; minimum charge \$2.50. On money, specie, etc., 5%; minimum charge \$2.50. On franked letters (when enclosed in the Co.'s regular franked envelopes) \$1 each. All charges must be prepaid by the shipper. A deposit will be required from irresponsible parties to cover duty. Duty will be assessed at the frontier port, & will average about 35%.

Effective Mar. 15, Dominion & Western express companies will be regarded as one company in the interchange of business, & charges will be made as follows:—On business between common points where the through service can be performed by any one company, one graduate on the through or aggregate rate, lowest through rate by any transfer point to govern. On business between exclusive offices, from a common point to an exclusive office, from an exclusive office to a common point & between common points where two or more other companies make the competing line, charge a graduate for Dominion & another graduate for Western Ex. Co., but not exceeding the through charge of such competing companies. The Dominion Ex. Co. will not advance the charges of an intermediate company on business that can be transferred by the originating company direct to the Western Ex. or to Dominion Ex. Co. The Dominion Ex. Co. will not advance charges on business for its exclusive offices, originating at common points with Western Ex. Co.