

year 1,766 wireless telegraph messages were handled by the post office telegraph system. Of these, 1,655 were received from ships at sea, and 111 were received from the general public for transmission to ships at sea. Of the messages handled only 21 could not be delivered.

At the annual convention of the Old Time Telegraphers' Association and other telegraph officers' associations in New York, Aug. 29 and the following days, there were present from Canada:—W. J. and Mrs. Camp, J. Horn, Mrs. L. B. McFarlane, Thos. and Mrs. Rodger, F. H. and Mrs. Waycott, W. P. and Mrs. Powell, Montreal; G. F. Macdonald and niece, Ottawa; I. Mrs. and Miss McMichael, Toronto.

The United Empire Club, London, Eng., has re-issued Sir Sandford Fleming's paper advocating a free press service over the Pacific cable. The Canadian Government has asked the British and Australian Governments to approve of this, as it could be arranged without adding anything to the working expenses. At present it is pointed out all the commercial messages could be despatched in three hours per day.

Judgments have recently been given by Judge Barron at Stratford, Ont., and by Judge Dowling at Chatham, Ont., in appeals by the G.N.W. Telegraph Co., and the C.P.R. in regard to the assessment of telegraph lines under the new Assessment Act. The Stratford judgment decided that the companies were not liable for business tax and that if anyone were to be assessed it should be the local agent. Under the Chatham judgment it was held that the company and not the agent was assessable.

#### General Telephone Matters.

The Bell Telephone Co. has over 5,000 subscribers at its Winnipeg exchange.

The Ontario Telephone Co. is reported to be preparing to submit an offer to the Brantford, Ont., City Council to instal a system there.

The Bell Telephone Co. has purchased the independent telephone line between Bancroft, Coehill, Madoc, Eldorado and Mar-mora, Ont.

The Bell Telephone Co. is publishing in various daily papers a series of telephone talks addressed to telephone users and the general public.

The Valley Telephone Co., Middleton, N.S., is equipping its offices with blue and white enamelled iron signs, supplied by the Acton Burrows Co., Toronto.

The Bell Telephone Co. has completed a metallic circuit between Newmarket and Sutton, Ont., thus giving a connection between the latter point and Toronto.

The terms of the agreement between the Vancouver City Council and the B.C. Telephone Co. have been approved, and the document prepared for signature.

G. McDonald, formerly with the Nova Scotia Telephone Co., has been appointed Superintendent of Equipment for the Telephone Co. of Prince Edward Island at Charlottetown.

The Bell Telephone Co. has opened general offices at St. Thecle, Lake St. Joseph, Piedmont, and Woodlands, Que. It has also completed a metallic line between Montreal and St. Jerome, Que.

The Bell Telephone Co. has completed a copper metallic line from Doucet's Landing to Nicolet, Que., and has converted its grounded circuit from St. Hyacinthe to Yaska West, Que., to a metallic circuit, and extended it to Sorel, Que.

The Bell Telephone Co. has completed its long distance line from Toronto to Collingwood, Ont.; and is extending the long distance line from Huntsville to North Bay,

Ont. It contemplates building a line from North Bay to Sturgeon Falls.

Sir Wm. Mulock, chairman of the House of Commons Telephone Committee, stated Sept. 13 that the enquiry would be resumed next year, and it was hoped to reach a conclusion at a sufficiently early stage to admit of legislative action during the next session.

The Commissioners of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Ry. are establishing a circuit line telephone system between North Bay and Temagami, and another between North Bay and New Liskeard, Ont. The instruments, etc., are being supplied by the Bell Telephone Co.

In connection with the construction of a telephone line between Nicola and Penticton, B.C., an interesting fact may be mentioned, namely, that about three miles of cable used to connect Kelowna with the line on the west side of the lake is a portion of the old Atlantic telegraph cable.

The Bell Telephone Co. proposes to erect a \$40,000 building in Brantford, Ont., and to instal a central energy system. At a meeting held Sept. 11, the City Council declined to grant the company an exclusive franchise for three years at \$800 a year, and a reduction of the rates on instruments rented for city purposes.

A conference of representatives of independent telephone companies and of municipalities favoring municipal ownership, was held in Toronto Sept. 6 and 7. An association was formed with the title of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association, the following being elected officers: President, A. Hoover, Green River; Vice-President, F. D. McKay, Peterboro; Secretary-Treasurer, A. F. Wilson; executive committee, Dr. Demers, Levis, Que.; Dr. Doan, J. A. Sprague, Demorestville, Ont.; T. H. Eastabrooks, St. John, N.B.; Dr. Oches, Hespeler, Ont.; E. Vigars, Port Arthur, Ont.; Dr. Hart, Brantford; L. Moyer, Beamsville, Ont.; C. J. Thornton, Kerby, Ont.

#### Telephone Companies in New Brunswick.

The Bell Telephone Co. about 1885 opened up a telephone business in New Brunswick, at the more important centres, but subsequently withdrew, handing over its lines to the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. in 1887. In 1888 the New Brunswick Legislature passed an act incorporating the New Brunswick Telephone Co., granting it an exclusive franchise for 10 years, and giving it power to construct a line from St. John, via Fredericton, to Woodstock; from St. John to Moncton, and from St. John to St. Stephen's via St. Andrew's. Under this act a central system was started in Fredericton and other points, with the result that the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. sold out its New Brunswick business to the local company. The capital of the company was fixed at \$100,000 in 2,000 shares of \$50 each. As a result of the taking over of the interests of the Nova Scotia Telephone Co., C. F. Sise of the Bell Telephone Co. became a shareholder of the New Brunswick Telephone Co. The consideration paid for the Nova Scotia Telephone Co.'s interest was \$50,000, of which one-half was paid in cash, and 500 fully paid-up shares were allotted to cover the balance. The lines taken over included exchanges in St. John, Fredericton, Moncton and Woodstock, with about 20 miles of long distance lines from Moncton. At that time there were 374 subscribers in St. John, 108 in Fredericton, 81 in Moncton and 32 in Woodstock.

Since then the capital of the company has been increased to \$204,050, of which \$69,100 is held by the Bell Telephone Co. The total authorized capital is now \$600,000, and there is a bond issue of \$100,000. The company now has exchanges at St. John, with 1,761 subscribers; Fredericton, 335 subscribers; Mon-

ton, 350 subscribers; Woodstock, 209 subscribers; St. Stephen's, 127 subscribers; Dorchester, 25 subscribers; Grand Falls, 11 subscribers. In 1902 a new building was erected at St. John fitted with a central energy system, at a cost of about \$120,000. At St. Stephen's connection is made with the New England Telegraph and Telephone Co., of Boston, Mass.; connection is also made with the Nova Scotia Telephone Co.; the Central Telephone Co.; the Sackville Telephone Co.; the Miramichi Telephone Co.; the Buctouche Telephone Co., and the Stanley Telephone Co. These connections are merely for the exchange of business, the rural or farmers' lines not being up-to-date. The company has two metallic copper lines from St. John to Fredericton, without intermediate instruments; two metallic copper lines from St. John to Moncton; one metallic copper line from Fredericton to Edmundston; one metallic copper line and one metallic iron wire no. 9 from Fredericton to Chatham. The company has a trunk line from St. John to the Nova Scotia boundary, and it is contemplated to extend the lines to give connection with Quebec lines. The policy of the company has been to construct trunk lines, and to give connection to the rural lines, and all other companies when they desire to have it, with the exception of the one case at Woodstock, where the Union Telephone Co. does business. The N.B.T. Co. does not guarantee the service over the rural lines, because they are filled with instruments having short distance, and it is impossible to have a successful telephone conversation for any distance over lines that are loaded with intermediate telephones and particularly single line wires, as they are susceptible to all sorts of interruptions.

The Union Telephone Co. was established in 1902, and operates a system in York, Carleton and Victoria counties. The system consists of party lines connected at convenient points by switches; some single wire or ground lines, about one-half metallic wires. The company has an automatic exchange in Woodstock. There are about 350 miles of line on which there are 200 subscribers. These are party lines with from 10 to 26 instruments on one line. One of the lines is 65 miles in length or, with some spurs, 70 miles of wire, and on this line there are 26 subscribers. Such a line would cost, including instruments, calculating one to every two miles of wire, \$140 a mile. The subscribers on this line pay \$25 a year for business men and \$15 a year for farmers; on other lines a metallic circuit line is rented at \$15, and a single wire line at \$12 an instrument a year. For this the subscribers can talk all they want to on their own line, but if they want to call up anyone on another line a switching charge of 10c. a call is made. The farmers very rarely require to make such a call, but the business men frequently do. The company has an automatic exchange in Woodstock, where there are 113 subscribers. The charge is \$15 for business instruments, and \$10 for residence instruments. The total income for the last financial year was \$6,871.78, and the expenses \$1,830.01; the dividends paid were \$2,898.04, and \$2,143.73 was spent on improvements and further developments.

The Central Telephone Co. obtained a charter from the N.B. Legislature in 1904, and has about 200 miles of rural lines. It recently acquired the rights of the New Brunswick Telephone Co. in Hampton. The Central Co. has established local exchanges at Richibucto, Bathurst and Campbellton, N.B. It has also acquired the stock of the Miramichi Telephone Co., which operated a line from Nelson to Tracadie, N.B. It has also acquired a number of local lines and proposes to connect them up. Extensions will be made with a view of giving connection with Montreal and Gaspé, Que.

The other lines are all small, and there are some mutual companies, of which that operated by M. Walsh is the principal.