

\$5,000,000 to establish an overland system of wireless telegraphy in Canada. The provisional directors are: W. R. Green, New York; J. N. Greenshields, K.C., Montreal; W. Barwick, K.C., H. C. Osborne and J. Payne, Toronto. The company, which is a subsidiary of the parent company in England, proposes to establish a system of wireless telegraphy across Canada from Glace Bay, N.S., to Victoria, B.C. It is proposed to equip central stations at Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, London, Sault Ste. Marie, Port Arthur, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Revelstoke, Kamloops, Vancouver and Victoria, with connections therefrom to smaller stations. J. N. Greenshields claims there is no longer any doubt regarding the success of the Marconi system, and that with the installation of the overland system a 60% reduction in the cost of commercial messages would be effected.

The all-British Pacific cable was completed Oct. 30, when the cable str. Anglia reached Fanning island from Suva. The total length of the cable is 7,986 nautical miles, and \$12,125,750 was paid by the British Government to the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Co. for the work. This includes not only the cable and the shore plant, but the building and fitting of a cable steamer for repair work. The cost of the cable is to be borne by the Canadian, Australian and Imperial Governments, but the latter is advancing the whole cost. The first message over the line was sent to the King in London, and subsequently one was received at Ottawa by the Governor-General sent by Sir Sandford Fleming from Ottawa. It was transmitted eastwardly across the Atlantic to Great Britain, thence to South Africa across the Indian ocean to Australia, then along the new cable to Bamfield creek, and by the C.P.R. telegraphs to Ottawa. The circuit was completed in 10 hours, the greater portion of which was expended in receptions and transmissions at the various repeating stations. Sir Sandford Fleming advocated the construction of a trans-Pacific cable as far back as 1879, and was a consistent advocate of it until the plan was endorsed at the Colonial conference in 1895. The officials are making complete tests of the cable, which was taken over on Nov. 20, and declared open for general use.

General Telephone Matters.

The Bell Telephone Co. is repairing its line between Quebec and Montreal.

A project is under consideration for installing a telephone service at Kintore, Ont.

The Dominion Coal Co. is installing a telephone system at its different stores at Glace Bay, N.S.

A telephone system is being installed at McGregor, Man. B. A. Rose has charge of the work.

J. E. Bull, the Bell Telephone Co.'s manager at Guelph, Ont., has been transferred to Calgary, Alta.

The Bell Telephone Co. is contemplating stringing a line from Almonte to Clayton, Ont., in the spring.

The Bell Telephone Co. is applying to the Kingston, Ont., city council for permission to put a portion of its wires underground.

The Bell Telephone Co. has extended its line from Collingwood to Duntroon, Ont., where a local office has been opened.

H. N. Dignan, of St. Thomas, Ont., has been appointed line superintendent of the Bell Telephone Co. for the Harriston, Ont., district.

The Bell Telephone Co. has made application to the Collingwood, Ont., town council for permission to erect poles on a number of streets.

The Eastern Telephone Co. has fully completed the installation of its new metallic service from its new offices in Sydney, N.S., to its subscribers.

The Bell Telephone Co. has made an offer to the Hamilton, Ont., city council for a renewal of its franchise, but its consideration has been adjourned.

The Winnipeg city council proposes to install a telephone system of its own to connect the city hall, and all the buildings, etc., owned by the city.

The town council of Tunbridge Wells, Eng., which opened a municipal telephone exchange in 1901, has decided to sell it to the National Telephone Co.

J. I. Dixon, chief clerk in the Bell Telephone Co.'s office at London, Ont., has been appointed manager of the Brantford, Ont., office, vice J. F. Gardner, appointed to a district managership.

The Bell Telephone Co. has extended its long distance line to Bracebridge, Ont., and communication can now be had with Severn Bridge, Gravenhurst and Bracebridge, the rates being 45c., 50c. and 55c. respectively from Toronto.

The equipment for municipal telephone systems is being installed at Port Arthur and Fort William, Ont., over 100 instruments being reported to be installed up to Nov. 1. The Bell Telephone Co. has exchanges in operation in both towns.

L. B. McFarlane, General Superintendent of the Bell Telephone Co., and F. G. Walsh, District Superintendent at Winnipeg, have been inspecting the territory between Winnipeg and Carman, Man., with a view of establishing a long distance line.

A local telephone line has been installed in Gladstone, Man., with 72 subscribers; together with a line between Gladstone and Plumas, Man., to which the farmers subscribe. Dr. Smith, of Gladstone, is Manager of the Company owning the lines.

The Bell Telephone Co. is having surveys made from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., along the north shore of Lake Huron, with a view of constructing a long distance line to Sudbury. The work now proposed to be done is to string a trunk line to Thessalon, and to connect up the several local independent lines in the little places en route.

The Bell Telephone Co., in connection with the completion of its long distance line from Winnipeg to the International boundary, and making connection with the U.S. system at Neche, N.D., has opened long distance stations at La Salle, Morris, Rosenfeld, Altona and Gretna; and at Plum Coulee, Winkler and Morden, with a branch line.

The New Brunswick Telephone Co. is pushing forward the work in connection with the installation of a metallic circuit in St. John, N.B. The cables in the underground conduits connecting with the new office building have been laid, and the stringing of the wires on the poles outside the conduit area is in progress. The whole service is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

A meeting was held at Singhampton, Ont., recently, when it was decided to form a company to construct a telephone line to Collingwood, via Duntroon and Glen Huron. A deputation subsequently explained the project to the Collingwood town council and secured permission to place poles on the streets, subject to such terms as may be hereafter agreed upon.

The Canadian Machine Telephone Co. has opened an office at 386 Bank st., Ottawa, Ont., and proposes to establish an experimental plant in that city, if suitable arrangements can be made. The city engineer re-

cently visited Piqua, Ohio, where there is an experimental plant, and in a report to the Mayor, says that the tests made showed the system to be quick and accurate, with sounds easily transmitted, "in fact quite as good as the present city service, which is unquestionably first-class."

P. Latzke, a U.S. expert in telephone matters, was asked by the Mayor of Ottawa to report on the cost of a municipal system for that city. In reply, he estimated the cost of equipment for 3,000 to 3,500 subscribers at \$360,000, and said the annual cost to each subscriber would vary with the actual number of subscribers—the more subscribers the higher the rates. He would consider it unwise, when everything in the telephone business was in an experimental stage, for the city to undertake the installation and management of a municipal plant, neither would he recommend the execution of a five or 10 year contract with the Bell Telephone Co.

The special committee appointed by the Hamilton city council to discuss the telephone question, has had a meeting with O. W. Rogers, promoter of the Modern Telephone Co., which offers to supply a telephone service at \$15 a year in business houses and \$10 a year in residences. Mr. Rogers went into details before the committee and claimed that the estimates he had made were rather over than under the mark. The committee will probably visit New York, where the automatic machine proposed to be adopted can be seen in operation, and make some investigation as to the correctness of the figures submitted before making a report to the council. The proceedings before the committee, according to the daily press reports, were very lively. In the course of the discussion Mr. Rogers said the franchise agreement drawn up by the city showed the Bell Co.'s influence plainly, whereupon Mayor Hendrie retorted that Mr. Rogers came from a country where corporation officials were considered to be crooked, and he seemed to imagine the same was true in Canada. Mr. Rogers apologized for the statement, and the discussion went on.

British Columbia Telephones, Limited.

The following report for the year ended June 30 was presented at the annual meeting in Huddersfield, Eng., Oct. 23: The number of subscribers on the books of the subsidiary companies shows an increase of 355 over a year ago. The extension of the system and the continually increasing number of subscribers have required further capital outlay amounting to £18,829 during the year. The connecting of Victoria with Nanaimo was carried out early in Dec. last, and the directors are assured that the new line has worked very satisfactorily. As in previous years, provision has been made for depreciation on construction, working and movable plant, office furniture, etc., before arriving at the profits of the subsidiary companies. The competition which greatly reduced the profits of the subsidiary companies working in the Kootenay district last year, has ceased, and the directors hope that the provisional arrangement referred to in their last report will be completed at an early date. It is proposed to make a further call of £2 10s. a share on the ordinary shares issued last year. This will be payable in the early part of Jan., and will be used in paying off the opposing company, referred to above, whose business was acquired. The profits for the year (including £287 1s. 1d. brought from last year's account), after deducting the expenses of the English offices, amount to £12,590 14s. 11d., out of which have been paid: Interest on debenture stock to June 30, 1902, £1,269 18s. 3d.; dividend on preference shares to June 30, 1902, £1,693 4s. 4d.; interim dividend on ordinary