

—to say nothing of others who have left the service and are filling honorable positions in other walks of life. It has been a great pleasure, and I have been very proud to hear, as I have done from time to time, favorable reports from telegraphic superintendents in the U.S. of our Canadian operators in their service."

W. Maver said that, as an Old Timer and old Montrealer, he had to speak of old Montreal. He believed that thirty years ago he travelled every street in Montreal as a messenger, at a cent a message. The line of promotion was from messenger boy to delivery clerk, and then into the operating room. How well he remembered fellow operators J. R. McPhee, W. McKenzie, J. Kent, L. B. McFarlane, J. Allen, J. Cochrane, E. McConnell, W. J. Jackson, Mr. Duggan, and Dr. W. H. Drummond. The great difference in the systems of old Montreal and those of to-day were touched upon. Electricity was then in its infancy, and there was hard work to be done in comparison with the up-to-dateness of everything to-day.

Hon. Mr. McKay, of St. John's, Nfld., said it was a coincidence that the previous night he celebrated his 51st anniversary as an operator. There was a great outburst of applause when he said that he was the only man now living of those who first did duty, in a consecutive way, in connection with the Atlantic telegraph system.

The list of "Forty-Niners of the Telegraph" includes the names of the oldest-living telegraphers, who entered the service during the forties. In it are three Canadians. N. W. Bethune, of Ottawa, entered service 1847, at Montreal; H. P. Dwight, of Toronto, entered service 1847, at Montreal; R. F. Easson, of Toronto, entered service 1849, at Toronto.

### The Yukon Telegraph Line.

The Dominion Government telegraph line from Ashcroft, B.C., where connection is made with the C.P.R. telegraph system, and Dawson, Yukon, has been completed, and the first messages were sent from Dawson to Vancouver and Ottawa Sept. 24. The total length of the main line is 1,865 miles, but with the branches there are 2,200 miles of line in operation north of Ashcroft. The first line to be constructed was from Bennett to Dawson, 564 miles; followed by a branch from Tagish to Atlin, 75 miles—now part of the main line from Ashcroft—both of which were in operation in 1899. In 1900 a branch was completed from Dawson to Fort Egbert, on the Alaskan boundary, 91 miles, where connection will be made with a line now under construction from Fort Gibbon, 300 miles, which is in telegraphic communication with St. Michael. The work on the line from Atlin to Ashcroft was commenced in April, 1900, and has been carried out under the supervision of J. B. Charleson, of Ottawa. The mileage of the different sections of the line are:

MAIN LINE.	
Ashcroft to Quesnel .....	225 miles.
Quesnel to Hazelton .....	405 "
Hazelton to Telegraph Creek .....	405 "
Telegraph Creek to Atlin .....	241 "
Atlin to Tagish .....	75 "
Tagish to Dawson .....	518 "
BRANCH LINES.	
Dawson to Fort Egbert .....	91 "
Tagish to Bennett .....	46 "
Hazelton to Fort Simpson .....	199 "
Total .....	2,200

The line traverses a wild and hitherto unexplored country and the work of construction was carried on under great difficulties. Between Quesnel and Atlin, over 1,000 miles, the builders had to cut their own trail, pack in all supplies and at times had to work in 5 ft. of snow at an elevation of 3,750 ft. Eleven bridges had to be constructed to cross un-

fordable rivers; one at Alexander river being 110 ft. long, and several long spans of wire were made across rivers and ravines. There have also been built 47 telegraph stations and linemen's houses. The houses are placed 40 miles apart, and half way between each is a refuge house for use by the linemen in repairing the line. The main storage electric batteries on the line are stationed as follows: Dawson, 400 jar battery; Selkirk, 175 jars; Bennett, 250; Telegraph Creek, 100; Atlin, 100; Hazelton, 150; Fort Simpson, 100; Quesnel, 150. Repeaters are fitted at the Ashcroft, Hazelton and Atlin stations, and at every refuge station a line-tapping equipment is provided to enable quick temporary repairs to be made.

It is expected that early next year an additional line will be strung from Ashcroft to Vancouver to handle the Yukon business, which will be received and distributed through the Vancouver office of the C.P.R. telegraphs.

The local rates at present in force on the line beyond Atlin are to be continued. The rate for any office on the line, above or below Atlin, to or from Ashcroft, is to be on the basis of 50c. for the first 100 miles, and 25c. for each additional 100 miles, which would figure out from Dawson to Ashcroft \$4.50 for 10 words and Atlin to Ashcroft \$3 for 10 words, the usual proportionate rate for additional words being 30c. and 20c. respectively. For through business the proposed rate contemplates 30c. for additional words where the 10 words rate is over \$4; 20c. for additional words \$3 up to \$4; 15c. for additional words \$2 up to \$3, and 10c. for additional words \$1 up to \$2. The cable rate will be 35c. a word with a minimum of \$4 from any point on the line. The press rate will be 1c. a word with a minimum of \$1 to all points from Ashcroft.

Mr. Crean, formerly of Quebec, has been appointed Superintendent of the Ashcroft-Dawson telegraph system, with headquarters at White Horse.

The Beavercell Townsite Co., Ltd., which has been incorporated under the British Columbia Companies' Act, is empowered to construct and operate telegraph and telephone lines.

C. F. Sise, Hon. R. McKay, R. Archer, H. Paton, and C. Cassils, of Montreal, are applying for incorporation under the Dominion Companies' Act as the Dominion Subway Co., Ltd., to construct, operate and dispose of underground conduits, wires, cables and pneumatic tubes, and with other powers. The capital is placed at \$100,000, and the chief place of business is to be at Montreal.

### General Telephone Matters.

A quarterly dividend of 2% was recently declared by the Bell Telephone Co. of Canada.

The construction work of the telephone line between St. Stephen and St. Andrews, N.B., has reached St. George.

The erection of the new telephone exchange for the New Brunswick Telephone Co. at St. John is being pushed forward to completion by the contractors.

A private telephone line has been installed between Hope, B.C., and the railway station, two miles distant across the Fraser River. A small fee is charged for its use by the public.

J. M. Martin, heretofore manager of the Bell Telephone Co.'s office at Lindsay, Ont., has been transferred to Barrie, Ont., where he will have charge of the Barrie and Orillia exchanges.

Poles are being distributed for the construction of the long-distance telephone line between Victoria and Nanaimo, B.C., Langford Plains, Parsons' Bridge and Esquimalt being the distributing points.

Representations are being made to the Dominion Government with a view of having its long-distance telephone now in operation between Kamloops and Nicola, B.C., extended to Princeton via Aspen Grove.

W. F. O'Connell, it is reported, is to succeed Mayor Crowe as Secretary-Treasurer of the Eastern Telephone Co., Sydney, N.S.; and F. A. Bowman, late of the Dominion Iron and Steel Co. will, it is said, be appointed General Superintendent.

Dr. Ross' telephone line has been extended to Hartland, N.B. Ten years ago there was not a foot of telephone wire in the county outside of Woodstock, where now a network covers the county. Dr. Ross' line goes to nearly every district in the upper part of the county.

The Bell Telephone Co. has notified the Montreal City Council that it intends, under its charter powers, to open up a number of streets in the city for the purpose of laying conduits to carry its wires underground, and asks for the appointment of an officer to supervise the work.

The Nova Scotia Telephone Co. has abolished the "half-rate for five minutes or fraction thereof," on its long-distance wires, and now charges at a per minute rate after the initial five minutes. Thus for messages costing 25c for five minutes, the charge for any time over that is now 5c a minute.

Prof. Melville Bell, father of Prof. Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, on behalf of the citizens of Brantford presented the Duke of Cornwall, during his recent visit there, with a silver-mounted long-distance telephone in a handsome casket of native Canadian woods. The Duke was greatly struck with the beauty and appropriateness of the gift, and promised to have it erected on his desk at home as a constant reminder of his brief and happy visit to Brantford. He was exceedingly courteous to the venerable Mr. Bell, and asked a number of pertinent questions about the origin of the telephone.

### British Columbia Telephones, Limited.

The following report was presented at a general meeting in Huddersfield, Eng., Oct. 17: The number of subscribers to the subsidiary companies at June 30 last shows an increase of 812 over a year ago. During the year the directors have again had to meet very heavy capital expenditure, entailed by the rapid extension of the various systems consequent upon the large increase in subscribers. The old wires in the central areas of Vancouver have been taken down and cables substituted. This improvement removes nearly all risk of damage by storm, or contact with the trolley wires of the electric railway system; it also materially improves the service, and reduces the cost of maintenance. Arrangements have been made to connect Victoria with Nanaimo, and communication is expected to be established early in Nov. This extension forms part of a larger scheme by which the mainland will ultimately be connected with Vancouver Island.

The directors have considered it desirable to issue 2,000 ordinary shares, at par, to provide for these extensions and improvements. In Feb. last the subscribers in Vancouver, the largest of the Co.'s centres, were personally visited, and the report of the special agent employed revealed a most satisfactory state of affairs, both with regard to the efficiency of the service, and the satisfaction of the subscribers therewith. Before arriving at the profits of the subsidiary companies available for distribution, provision has been made for depreciation on construction, working and movable plant, office furniture, etc. The profits during the past year have been adversely affected by the competition of another