

The British speaking residents at St. Pierre, Miquelon, now comprise the operators of the Anglo-American Cable Co. and their families. At one time the French Cable Co., which also has a station at St. Pierre, also employed British operators, but has now replaced them all by Frenchmen. The British operators have established clubs and recreation rooms at their headquarters.

Sir J. Wolfe-Barry, Chairman of the Eastern Extension Cable Co., recently stated that the new trans-Pacific cable was the outcome and fulfilment of a sentimental notion. It was no more all-British than the Eastern Co.'s own cables. He saw no cause for violent alarm among the latter's shareholders. Their cables afforded greater facilities to the public than the Pacific line, with its single cable.

D. H. Keeley, Superintendent of Government Telegraphs, states that the operators at the mainland and Belle Isle telegraph stations are now as familiar with the wireless telegraph apparatus and its use, as with the ordinary telegraph and cable instruments. The cable between these stations is in an exposed position, and is liable to be interrupted through erosion caused by passing ice floes.

The C.P.R. telegraph department, in order to meet the requirements of the contract for the transmission of messages through Canada, for the new trans-Pacific cable, had to construct a line from Montreal to Riviere du Loup, via Quebec, thence to Edmundston and St. John, N.B., so as to secure an all-Canadian line. The new line is about 100 miles longer than the one over the C.P.R. through Maine.

N. Maskelyne, of Maskelyne & Cooke, who patented the automaton chessplayer and other scientific curiosities, in London, Eng., has written an article in the Electrician, in which he gives the results of some experiments he made with a wireless telegraph apparatus at Porthcurnew, Cornwall, some miles away from Poldhu. He succeeded in intercepting signals between Poldhu and the Italian war ship, on which Marconi was travelling, and discovered that there had been a change in sending out the messages after he had been experimenting.

Speaking of wireless telegraphy, A. Dearlove, who inspected the trans-Pacific cable for the Pacific Cable Board, says it will be years before the cable service is affected by it. Rapidity, accuracy and secrecy are the great features of the cable service, and these have not yet been attained by Marconi. The present speed on some of the Atlantic cables is 450 letters a minute, or eleven times the speed obtained by the Marconi system under the most favorable conditions. D. H. Keeley, Superintendent of Government telegraphs, says the wireless telegraph will be an auxiliary to the telegraph and cable service, and thinks that the best results will be obtained with stations not more than 300 miles apart.

As a souvenir of the completion of the all-British trans-Pacific cable, 62 cards have been issued by the engineers in charge of construction, and have been sent to the King, the premiers of the countries interested in the new cable, and others connected with its construction. The card certifies that "the subjoined signals were transmitted from Fanning island by automatic curb sender, through the world's largest cable (3,458 nautical miles), and received here on the Kelvin siphon recorder at a speed of 100 letters per minute." The signals in each case gave the name and address of the recipient, recorded on the cable ribbon on which they were received. Among those who have received these souvenirs are J. Kent, Manager C.P.R. Telegraphs, Montreal, and W. Christie, Manager C.P.R. Telegraphs, Vancouver, B.C.

### General Telephone Matters.

The Bell Telephone Co. proposes to lay underground cables in Kingston, Ont., and is asking the City Council for the necessary authority.

The Bell Telephone Co. has been given an exclusive franchise in Hull, Que., for five years, the rates to be \$45 for business telephones, and \$30 for telephones in residences.

The Montreal city council is considering the advisability of asking the Quebec Legislature for authority to borrow \$1,000,000 for the purpose of constructing underground conduits for telephone and other wires in the city.

The Bell Telephone Co. is inviting tenders for the poles required for the stringing of a line along the Government road between Sault Ste. Marie and Thessalon, Ont., about 50 miles. The poles are to be delivered by May 31.

Within two years the number of telephones in use at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., has increased from 125 to 400, the limit of the switchboard capacity. The Bell Telephone Co. is increasing its capacity to 500 to meet the increasing demand.

The Bell Telephone Co.'s new long distance lines in Manitoba have been connected with the lines on the U. S. side of the boundary so as to give through communication between Winnipeg and St. Paul, Minn., and Chicago, Ill.

Owing to increased business the New Westminster and Burrard Inlet Telephone Co. has made a connection at Blaine, Wash., with the lines of the Sunset Telephone and Telegraph Co., thus giving a direct connection between New Westminster, B.C., and Seattle, Wash.

The Ottawa city council has adopted a resolution asking the co-operation of the other municipalities in Canada, in petitioning the Dominion Parliament in legislating on the telephone question, to ensure power being given to municipalities dealing with the Bell Telephone Co. to expropriate their local telephone system, if thought desirable.

The Government line, operated by telephone from Edmonton, Alta., to Riviere Qui Barre, is being extended to the mission on the Alexandre, and it is proposed to extend it six miles further northwest. J. S. Macdonald, Superintendent of Government Telegraph lines in the west, was at Edmonton recently looking after the extension.

The Bell Telephone Co. has appealed against the decision of Justice Street given in March, 1902, in which it was held that the Co. had not the right to erect any poles or carry lines either above or below ground without the consent of the city, the city of Toronto being the respondent. The case is before the Ontario court of appeal.

The telephone committee of the Hamilton city council, after arriving at a decision that a dual telephone system was not a desirable thing to have, gave a further consideration to the whole matter Dec. 11, and passed a resolution recommending the council to postpone deciding the question until after the ensuing session of the Dominion Parliament, at which the Government telephone bill is to be considered.

The Modern Telephone Co., which has its headquarters at Hamilton, Ont., has established a rural telephone circuit embracing Markham, Locust Hill, Whitevale, Green River and Brougham, Ont. Some 30 subscribers have taken telephones, paying \$40 therefor, and contributing a small sum annually for maintenance. The instruments installed are all provided with long-distance equipment.

The stock-book of the Modern Telephone Co., which is applying for a franchise in Hamilton, Ont., was recently inspected by Mayor Hendrie. The share capital is \$300,000 in 3,000 shares of \$100 each, and the stock-book showed the following shareholders: O. W. Rogers, New York, 250 shares; J. S. King, Toronto, 150 shares; W. A. Johnson, Toronto, 100 shares; J. B. Scovell, Lewiston, N.Y., 100 shares; H. A. Drummond, Toronto, 10 shares.

The Kamouraska Telephone Co. has been incorporated under the Quebec Companies' Act with a capital of \$10,000, to carry on an electric and telephone business in the counties of l'Islet, Kamouraska and Temiscouata. The incorporators are: C. A. Desjardins, of St. Andre; J. C. Pouliot, J. E. Frenette, of Fraserville; J. A. Moreau, of St. Germain; J. A. Blanchet, J. Paradis, of Kamouraska; L. P. Crepeault, of Montreal; Josephine Lapointe, T. Ward, of St. Louis de Kamouraska; and H. Pelletier, of St. Alexandre.

The employees of the New Westminster and Burrard Inlet Telephone Co. at Vancouver went on strike Nov. 26, and the system was tied up until Dec. 3, when non-union hands were taken into the city. H. W. Kent, General Superintendent, says the strike originated in the operators belonging to the union making a demand for increased wages and wishing an answer to be given within a limited time, which it was not possible to do, as the directors were out of town. The operators say this is not the case, as it originated in the Co.'s discriminating against an employee active in the union interest who was given the choice of a transfer to Nanaimo or being dismissed.

The Eastern Telephone Co. cut over on to its new central energy switchboard in its exchange at Sydney, on Oct. 5. The work of reconstruction was begun a year ago, when the directors decided to anticipate the future growth of the town and build to meet it. With this object in view a building was erected, underground conduits laid, and the latest type of relay switchboard ordered. The building is on Pitt st., and is of brick, and underwriters approved slow-burning construction. It is 27x50 ft., and three stories high. The front part of the ground floor is let for a shop, but all the rest of the building is used by the Co. The instrument repair room is in the back part of the ground floor, the general offices of the Co. on the second floor, and the top floor is devoted to the operating room, operators' waiting room, etc. In the basement is a brick cable vault, where the underground cables enter the building. The rest of the basement is used for stores. A system of underground conduits sufficient to meet the demands of many years has been laid on Pitt st., crossing the three main thoroughfares of Esplanade, Charlotte and George streets, and branches extend north and south on Charlotte st. There are 1,500 ft. of conduit containing about 5,000 ft. of ducts. The overhead work has been entirely reconstructed, and all circuits made metallic. The re-construction of the system in Glace Bay, and the making it metallic, is also nearly completed. A new switchboard has been installed there. North Sydney will be undertaken next and treated in the same way. The Co. controls all the telephone lines in Cape Breton island, having about 40 toll offices and six exchanges. Arrangements are being made to build a through line from Sydney to Port Hastings next. This will connect with the lines of the Nova Scotia Telephone Co. The Eastern Telephone Co. is about to equip its offices with enameled iron signs, lettered on both sides, "The Eastern Telephone Co., Limited," in white letters on blue ground, for which an order has been placed with the Acton Burrows Co., Toronto.