CANADA

REPORT

OF THE

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

ON THE

WORKS UNDER HIS CONTROL

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

1911

VOLUME I

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SESSIONAL PAPER No. 19

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH SERVICE—*Con.*

Location of Lines.	Points connected.	Year.	Length of Lines.			Number of Offices.	Messages Sent.
			Land Lines.	Cables.	Total.		
			Miles Wire.	Kt's.			
	Broughtf forward		4,772¼	234½	5,006¾	397	111,493
British Columbia	Kamloops—Lower Nicola	1899	67	.....	67	39	45,526
"	Lower Nicola—Penticton	1905	168	.....	168		
"	Vernon—Kilowna	1905	35	.....	35		
"	Kilowna—Penticton	1906	45	1½	46½	.....	
"	Vernon—Lumby	1907	18	.....	18	2	
"	Golden—Windermere	1901-02	92	.....	92	12	1,944
"	Duncan Station—Salt Spring Island	1902-04	24	.....	24	5	1,949
"	Salt Spring Island—North Pender Island	1907	16	4½	20½	5	
"	North Pender—South Pender	1908	7	.....	7	5	
"	Pender Island—Mayne Island	1908	11	1	12		
"	Mayne Island—Galino Island	1908	4	1	5	2	
"	Nanaimo—Gabriola Island	1908	18	1	19	6	528
"	Courtney—Campbell River	1908	40	.....	40	3	†
"	Union—Denman and Hornby Islands	1907	14	2	16	6	301
"	Victoria—Metchosin	1908	14	.....	14	1	‡
"	Kamloops—Louis Creek	1908	36	.....	67	8	*s*
"	Louis Creek—Little Fort (Aitkens)	1910	31	.....			
"	Kamloops—Grand Prairie—Vernon	1910	84	.....	84	6	*s*
	Sidney Island Line:						
"	Sidney to Cable landing	1910	1	.....	5	2	595
"	Cable to Sidney Island	1910	.....	2½			
"	On Sidney Island	1910	1½	.....			
	Texada Island Branch:						
"	Campbell River—Quattica Cove	1910	1¼	.....	47½	9	†
"	Quattica Cove—Valdes Island	1910	.....	2			
"	On Valdes Island	1910	7¼	.....			
"	Valdes—Mary Island	1910	.....	4			
"	On Mary Island	1910	2	.....			
"	Mary Island—Cortez Island	1910	.....	½			
"	On Cortez Island	1910	7½	.....			
"	Cortez Island—Sarah Point	1910	.....	2			
"	Sarah Point—Powell River	1910	21	.....			
Yukon	Ashcroft—Dawson and Boundary	1899-01	1,845	.....	2,252½	88	87,579
"	Hazelton—Port Simpson and Aberdeen	1901-02	202½	.....			
"	Tagish—Cariboo Crossing	1901	18	.....			
"	150 mile Station—Quesnelle Forks	1902	64	.....			
"	Ashcroft—Lillooet	1896	62	.....			
"	Quesnelle—Barkerville	1887	61	.....			
"	Ashcroft—Quesnelle (local wire)	1878-87	215	.....	215	.....	
"	Hootalinqua—Livingstone Creek	1907	35	.....	35	2	
"	Aberdeen—Prince Rupert	1907	40	.....	40	5	
"	Kitsumkalum towards Stewart	1910	70	.....	70	.....	
	Total		8,150¼	256½	8,406¾	603	249,915

*For convenience in totalling, the knots of cable are regarded as statute miles.
†Count of messages included with Nanaimo—Comox line.
‡ " " " Victoria—Cape Beale line.
s " " " Kamloops—Lower Nicola, etc.

Complaint was frequent during the year from the line repairers especially at Uchucklesit that the section from Franklin creek to Port Alberni was not repaired as promptly as possible causing them to travel over their sections in search of trouble when the cause was on the Franklin creek-Port Alberni section. This portion of the line like the Alberni and Cape Beale line was in charge of the Canadian Pacific Railway Telegraph Company's line repairers up to February 1 last, when our own line repairers were appointed and I am pleased to say that an improvement in the conditions are already manifest, but in order to secure a satisfactory service on the Victoria and Cape Beale, Alberni-Cape Beale and Alberni-Clayoquot lines, the Alberni-Cape Beale line will require very considerable repair, almost amounting to reconstruction. The poles now in use are rotten and unsafe to climb, the trees, used for poles have been topped and become dead and rotten and are also unsafe to climb, many portions are in the bush and should be on the shore of the canal for facility in finding troubles and repairing. I would again urge that motor launches be supplied to the line repairers, similar to those supplied for use on the Alberni and Cape Beale line.

Nanaimo and Comox-Campbell River Telegraph Line.—This line has again given the greatest satisfaction to the public. Campbell river, which had been a telephone office was made a telegraph and telephone in November, 1910. A portion of the line between Qualicum and Comox was repoled, a portion still remains to be done. The provincial government have started to change the route of the road in a number of places, and for the quick and proper repair of same, our line will also require to be changed. From February 1 last, the repair of the Parksville-Alberni branch of this line has been placed under our own control, having formerly been attended to by the Canadian Pacific Railway Telegraph Company's line repairers.

Denman and Hornby Island Telephone Line.—This line had very few interruptions during the year and has been of great service to the settlers.

Vancouver, Salt Spring, Pender, Mayne and Galiano Island Telephone Line.—A new cable between Mayne and Galiano Islands was laid giving renewed connection to the latter island settlers, which is appreciated very much, the service maintained over this line has been of a very satisfactory character and since the provision for the appointment of a general line foreman in connection with these and other Gulf islands with a sea-going launch, the lines will be put and kept in a thorough state of repair.

Nanaimo and Gabriola Island Line.—This line continues to give excellent satisfaction to the isolated settlers upon it, and in common with the other islands, will reap a benefit from the improved conditions brought about by the appointment and work of the general line foreman.

Golden and Windermere Telegraph Line.—Considerable resetting of the poles was done on this line, and this work will require to be done yearly until it becomes necessary to repole the whole line as the poles already reset will not bear another resetting.

Victoria and Metchosin Telephone Line.—Operated and maintained by the British Columbia Telephone Company.

Campbell River-Texada Island Telegraph Line.—During the year a line was constructed from Campbell river to Powell river a distance of 39 miles land line and 8½ miles cable by Mr. A. V. Porter, line foreman and a gang of men. Work was started in July and the line completed to Powell river on December 1, and telephone communication at once established. Subsequently a telegraph operator was appointed at Powell river and Campbell river, telephone offices being established at Lund, Cortez island, Mary island and two on Valdez island (Quathiaski Cove) and Heriot bay.

The land line between Blubber bay and Van Anda on Texada Island was also constructed, but on account of a shortage in the cable, connection was not made with Powell river, this stretch of cable when laid will complete the line as originally intended.

The construction of a line to Powell river has given the liveliest satisfaction to the Powell River Pulp and Paper Mills Company, who have invested one and a half million dollars at this point and are employing nearly 1,000 men in their various works, it is expected that the total investments of the company before the works are completed will be over two million dollars. The settlers, &c., at Lund, and on the various islands express very great satisfaction at the prompt construction of the line and the satisfactory service given.

Extension of Nanaimo-Comox Line to Cape Lazo Wireless Station.—Six and a half miles of line was constructed for the purpose of giving land line connection to the wireless station. Complete sets of instruments being installed at Comox and Cape Lazo.

Extension of Victoria-Cape Beale Line to Wireless Station at Gonzales Hill, Oak Bay Municipality, adjoining Victoria.—A line was constructed from the Victoria office to the wireless station a distance of 1½ miles (3 miles wire) to give connection to our land line.

Golden-Windermere Telephone Line.—This line continues to be of great service to the people of Golden, Wilmer, Windermere points along the Columbia river and districts adjacent, there are now twenty-five subscribers for phones, in addition to these supplied to our (5) agents, making a total of thirty phones, ten of these are on our Golden exchange. Applications are now on hand for five additional phones, which is testimony to the popularity and efficiency of the service.

Sidney-Sidney Island Telephone Line.—This line has given very great satisfaction to the firms doing business on Sidney island, and has not been interrupted during the year.