

The percentages of the total wire-mileage in underground and aerial cables and open aerial wire respectively for the year ended 31st March, 1932, are as under :—

Telephone-exchange wire in underground cables	70 per cent.
Telephone-exchange wire in aerial cables	10 „
Telephone-exchange open aerial wire	20 „

TELEPHONE STATISTICS.

The steady growth of the telephone system is exemplified in the following table, which shows annually since 1923 the number of exchanges, the total wire-mileage, the revenue, and the total number of telephone-stations, together with the number of telephones for each 1,000 of population of the Dominion :—

Year.	Number of Exchanges.	Miles of Wire.	Revenue.	Number of Telephone-stations.	
				Total.	Per 1,000 Population.
			£		
1923	320	229,882	595,967	107,036	80·78
1924	327	269,421	830,470	111,441	82·67
1925	340	331,453	867,218	120,097*	87·09
1926	341	402,433	980,281	130,186*	94·40
1927	342	440,253	995,071	137,307*	95·48
1928	344	463,356	1,057,177	144,552*	99·40
1929	351	495,470	1,135,795	152,541*	103·72
1930	349	513,096	1,206,714	161,323*	108·37
1931	349	528,568	1,238,649	161,739*	107·04†
1932	349	556,735	1,218,072	160,779*	105·45

* Includes approximately 4,000 non-exchange stations. † Decrease owing to temporary loss of subscribers due to Hawke's Bay earthquake.

The manner in which the exchanges are classified, the number of exchanges in each class, and the number of stations connected therewith on the 31st March, 1932, are shown in the following table :—

	Class I. Exchanges or Net- works observing Continuous Attendance and having more than 3,500 Paying Subscribers' Main Stations con- nected therewith.	Class II. Exchanges or Net- works observing Continuous Attendance and having 1,001 to 3,500 Paying Subscribers' Main Stations con- nected therewith.	Class III. Exchanges or Net- works observing Continuous Attendance and having 201 to 1,000 Paying Subscribers' Main Stations con- nected therewith.	Class IV. Exchanges or Networks where the Attendance is restricted.	Dominion Totals.
Subscribers' main stations ..	44,260	24,929	29,908	26,729	125,826
Toll and service stations ..	724	516	954	1,770	3,964
Public call offices	556	119	64	6	745
Extension stations—					
P.B.X.	9,559	2,001	728	102	12,390
Ordinary	7,548	3,362	2,196	941	14,047
Telephone-stations : Class totals	62,647	30,927	33,850	29,548	156,972
Number of exchanges in each class	4	13	62	270	349

In addition to the stations shown in the preceding table there were 3,807 stations connected by private telephone-lines directly or indirectly with departmental toll stations, making a grand total of 160,779 telephone-stations on the 31st March, 1932.