FOREWORD

The following report on the Census of Telephones and Telegraphs for 1932 is one of the series of the Census of Electrical Industries, which also includes reports on Central Electric Light and Power Stations and Electric Railways and Affiliated Motor-Bus Lines.

The Census of Electrical Industries has been taken quinquennially, beginning with the inquiry for the year 1902, under provisions of acts of Congress approved March 6, 1902, and June 7, 1906.

The collection of the data, the compilation of the statistics, and the preparation of the text of this report were under the supervision of Z. R. Pettet, chief statistician in charge of electrical industries, and S. S. Slick, assistant chief statistician, assisted by Owen L. Briggs.
# CONTENTS

## TELEPHONES

### Chapter I.—INTRODUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection of the data</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period covered</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLES

1. Summary—All systems and lines, 1932. | 2 |
2. Number of systems and lines, wire mileage, and number of central offices, the Bell system and all other systems and lines, by divisions and States, 1932. | 3 |
3. Number of telephones, classified as residence and business, the Bell system and all other systems and lines, by divisions and States, 1932. | 6 |
4. Number of originating calls, the Bell system and all other systems and lines, by divisions and States, 1932. | 8 |

### Chapter II.—DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth during 30 years</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLES

5. Summary—Systems reporting annual incomes of $10,000 or more, 1932, 1927, and 1922; and those reporting $5,000 or more, 1932 to 1917. | 10 |
6. Number of systems and lines, grouped according to annual income, by divisions and States: 1932, 1927, and 1922. | 11 |
7. Miles of wire, all systems and lines grouped according to annual income, with percent increase or decrease, by divisions and States: 1932, 1927, and 1922. | 12 |
8. Number of telephones, all systems and lines grouped according to annual income, with percent increase or decrease, by divisions and States: 1932, 1927, and 1922. | 14 |
9. Percent distribution, miles of wire, and number of telephones, all systems and lines grouped according to annual income, by divisions and States: 1932, 1927, and 1922. | 16 |
10. Summary—Telephone and telegraph systems: 1902 to 1932. | 18 |

### Chapter III.—EQUIPMENT AND TRAFFIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wire mileage</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telephones</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of &quot;originating calls&quot;</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLES

11. Miles of wire overhead and underground, all systems and lines, 1902 to 1932; and overhead mileage in cable and not in cable, the Bell system and other systems and lines: 1932 and 1927. | 19 |
12. Telephones—Number, the Bell system and other systems reporting annual incomes of $10,000 or more, by divisions and States: 1932, 1927, and 1922. | 20 |
13. Telephones, originating calls, and average calls per telephone per day, for systems reporting annual incomes of $10,000 or more, by divisions and States: 1932, 1927, and 1922. | 21 |
14. Telephones—Number per 1,000 population, for all systems and lines, by divisions and States: 1912 to 1932. | 22 |
15. Originating calls—Number per capita, for systems and lines reporting annual incomes of $10,000 or more, 1932, 1927, and 1922; and for those reporting $5,000 or more, 1917 and 1912; by divisions and States. | 23 |

### Chapter IV.—COMPARISON OF BELL AND OTHER SYSTEMS; STATISTICS FOR SMALL SYSTEMS AND LINES

### TABLES

16. Systems and lines, miles of wire, and telephones, the Bell system and all other systems and lines: 1902 to 1932. | 24 |
17. Detailed statistics, the Bell system and other systems reporting annual incomes of $10,000 or more: 1932, 1927, and 1922. | 25 |
18. Miles of wire, the Bell system and all other systems and lines, by divisions and States: 1932, 1927, and 1922. | 26 |
19. Number of telephones, the Bell system and all other systems and lines, by divisions and States: 1932, 1927, and 1922. | 28 |
20. Number of central offices, the Bell system and all other systems and lines, grouped according to by divisions and States: 1932, 1927, and 1922. | 30 |
21. Number of originating calls and average number of calls per telephone per day, the Bell system and all other systems and lines, by divisions and States, 1932. | 32 |
22. Principal statistics, systems and lines reporting annual incomes of less than $10,000, by divisions and States, 1932. | 33 |
IV CONTENTS

Chapter V.—FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Character of the statistics ........................................................................................................ 35

TABLES

23. Operating revenue per telephone and per originating call, systems reporting annual incomes of $10,000 or more: 1912 to 1932 ......................................................... 38
24. Employees and salaries and wages, all systems and lines: 1923, 1927, and 1929 .......................................................... 38
25. Operating revenue, the Bell system and other systems reporting annual incomes of $10,000 or more: 1920, 1927, and 1929 ............................................. 38

TELEGRAPHS

INTRODUCTION

General description ...................................................................................................................... 37
Period covered ............................................................................................................................ 37
Financial statistics .................................................................................................................... 37

TABLE

1. Summary—Land and ocean-cable telegraph systems: 1912 to 1932 ........................................ 38

COMPARISON OF COMMERCIAL LAND AND OCEAN-CABLE TELEGRAPH SYSTEMS

Growth between 1912 and 1932 .............................................................................................. 38

TABLES

2. Equipment and traffic—Land and ocean-cable telegraph systems, 1932 .................................. 39
3. Employees, salaries and wages—Land and ocean-cable telegraph systems, 1932 ............... 39

COMMERCIAL AND RAILWAY LAND TELEGRAPH SYSTEMS

Line and wire mileage ................................................................................................................ 40
Business, number of offices, and wire mileage ...................................................................... 40
Railway and commercial telegraph lines on railway right of way ........................................ 40
Telephone wire on railway right of way ................................................................................ 40

TABLE

4. Summary—Land telegraph systems: 1922, 1927, and 1929 .................................................. 40
Train dispatchers and railroad telegraph operators ............................................................... 41
Train dispatching by telegraph and by telephone, class I railroads ...................................... 41

TABLES

5. Train dispatching by telegraph and telephone, for class I railroads: 1922, 1927, and 1929 .................................................. 41
6. Railway and commercial telegraph line and wire on right of way of class I railroads, 1932 42
7. Commercial telegraph line and wire on railway right of way, by companies, 1932 ............ 42

COMMERCIAL CABLE SYSTEMS

TABLE

8. Summary—Ocean-cable telegraph systems: 1922, 1927, and 1929 ....................................... 42

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH AND CABLE LINES

Coast Guard—Report of Chief of Coast Guard, 1931-32 ...................................................... 43
Outlying possessions—Alaska, Panama Canal Zone, Philippine Islands, and Puerto Rico 43

TABLE

9. Government telegraph and cable systems—Outlying possessions: 1932, 1927, and 1922 44
Appendix ............................................................................................................................... 45