

railroads in operation, whose rails traverse 2950 miles. The cost of these lines and the amount of their earnings in 1867-8 (less the returns not published) were as follows:—

Name of Road.	Total Cost.	Earnings.
Great Western.....	\$ 24,877,454	\$3,758,978
London & Port Stanley.....	1,049,857	41,705
Welland.....	1,622,843	86,615
Northern.....	3,552,064	561,370
Port Hope, Lindsay & Beaverton.....	1,993,535	233,476
Cobourg & Peterboro.....	290,000	19,256
Brockville & Ottawa.....	2,700,000	138,884
St. Lawrence & Ottawa.....	2,008,994	106,181
Grand Trunk.....	102,865,429	6,392,367
Carillon & Grenville.....	99,114	15,303
St. Lawrence & Industry.....	55,330	8,709
New Brunswick & Canada.....	2,206,519	79,781
European and North American.....	4,644,903	166,758
Nova Scotia.....	6,955,178	253,994
Total.....	\$154,921,190	\$11,845,777

These returns do not embrace several lines of railroad which have been recently completed in the Maritime Provinces, whose total length may be estimated at 185 miles. The cost of these roads at \$30,000 per mile would be \$5,550,000, which sum added to \$154,921,190 given above, would show that in the existing railways of the Dominion no less than \$160,471,190 have been invested. Their annual earnings are over \$12,000,000—a sum within 25 per cent. of the entire public revenue. But we have only stepped on the threshold of our railway development. New lines are projected in all parts of the Dominion, and it is understood that during the recent negotiations with the representatives of British Columbia for admission into the Union, the Government of Canada agreed to undertake the great work of a Pacific railway, which will extend across the entire continent and unite the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The following new roads are either wholly or partially under contract and in process of construction:—

	Estimated length.	Estimated cost.
The Intercolonial.....	560 miles.	\$20,000,000
Canada Central*.....	210 "	5,250,000
Toronto, Grey & Bruce.....	100 "	2,000,000
Toronto & Nipissing.....	100 "	2,000,000
Wellington, Grey & Bruce.....	100 "	2,500,000
Southern Air Line.....	275 "	6,875,000
Whitby & Port Perry.....	43 "	1,075,000
Total.....	1388	\$39,700,000

When these important undertakings are finished, not to mention the many other railroads projected and sure to be built before many years, there will be over \$200,000,000 invested in the railways of Canada, whose aggregate length will be close upon 4,400 miles. For a country like Canada, with a population barely over four millions, and whose resources are yet but very partially developed, this record is exceedingly creditable, and exhibits an amount of energy and enterprise in the construction of public works of which much older and wealthier countries would have no reason to feel ashamed.

In referring to the proposed Canadian Pacific railroad, we may state that if ever any considerable portion of the trade of Western Europe with India, China, Japan and other Oriental lands, can be carried on across the American continent, it must be through our territory. The writer confesses, however, to some scepticism in regard to so great a change in the course of eastern trade, particularly since the great work of M. De Lesseps, the Suez canal, has become an accomplished fact. But Lord Bury said in England some years ago:—"Our trade in the Pacific ocean, with China and with India, must ultimately be carried on through our American possessions;" and the late D'Arcy McGee more than once during his more eloquent utterances, pictured the productions of the Orient passing across this continent through British territory to Europe. Should such hopes be realized, and a revolution take place in the course of Oriental trade, the advantages which a Canadian Pacific railroad would have over American lines, are undoubted. The most obvious advantage would be a saving of at least 500 miles in distance. The following is the estimated distance by each route from Liverpool to the Pacific ocean:—

American Pacific Route.		Canadian Pacific Route.	
From Liverpool to New York.....	2380 miles	From Liverpool to Montreal.....	2740 miles
" New York to San Francisco.....	3300 "	" Montreal to Thunder Bay.....	1030 "
		" Thunder Bay to mouth of Fraser river.....	1979 "
Total number of miles....	6280	Total number of miles....	5749

* The distances of these various projected rail roads are from the most correct data which could be obtained. We have calculated the cost of the broad gauge lines at \$25,000 per mile, and the narrow gauge at \$20,000. In the end, this will probably be found within the mark.