

## Railways of the Dominion.

On the 30th June, 1877, the close of the fiscal year, there were in operation in the Dominion 5,346 miles of railway, besides 228 miles of United States roads worked by Canadian Companies, in all 5,574 miles. This shows an increase in the mileage of railways of 417 miles in the year. 80 miles are double track, viz: 79 on the Great Western, and 1 on the Canada Southern. The gauges are—

	<i>Miles.</i>
5 ft. 6 in ... .. .	539½
4 ft. 8½ in ... .. .	4,362
3 ft. 6 in ... .. .	672½

The total capital raised by railways in operation up to 30th June, 1877, was \$326,328,976, and the paid up capital of railways under construction was \$19,621,140, making a total railway capital of \$345,950,116. The increase as compared with 1876 was—

On railways in operation ...	\$3,808,506
do do construction	3,500,561
	\$12,339,067

The equipment of the railways in operation was as follows:—

Miles laid with Iron rails.....	2,783½
do Steel rails.....	2,765½
do Wooden rails ...	25½
Length of sidings .....	68½
No. of engines owned.....	981
do do hired.....	14
do first class cars hired.....	35
do do owned.....	462
do second class and emigrant cars owned .....	294
do baggage, mail and express cars owned .....	237
do baggage, mail and express cars hired.....	4
do cattle & freight cars hired	1,583
do do do owned	12,129
do platform cars owned.....	6,917
do do hired.....	10
do coal cars owned.....	1,050
do grain elevators .....	13
do road crossings guarded... ..	70
do road crossings not guarded	6,001
do overhead bridges.....	334
do crossings of other railways	91
do junctions with do	126
do branch lines.....	58

	<i>Miles.</i>
The train mileage was ...	19,450,813
No. of passengers.....	6,073,233
Tonnage of freight.....	6,859,796

The earnings of the railways in 1876 and 1877 were as follow:—

	1876-77		1875-76	
	\$	cts.	\$	cts.
Passengers.....	6,453,493	52	6,254,866	74
Freight... .. .	11,321,264	26	12,211,158	46
Mails & Express	744,741	48	703,994	01
Other sources... ..	217,554	24	188,064	90
Total.....	18,742,053	48	19,358,084	11

The operating expenses in the same two years were—

	1876-77		1875-76	
	\$	cts.	\$	cts.
Maintenance. ....	3,226,765	76	3,813,668	27
Working & rep'r's of engines. ....	4,816,349	41	4,825,676	19
Working & rep'r's of cars. ....	1,515,774	90	1,588,276	01
General operating charges .....	5,731,201	78	5,575,080	94
Total.....	15,290,091	48	15,802,721	41
The gross receipts in 1876-77 were.....			\$18,742,053	48
Gross expenses.....			15,290,091	48
Profit .....			\$3,451,962	00

which would give a dividend of \$4 33 per cent. upon the bonded debt of \$79,676,382, leaving nothing for share capital or Government or municipal advances. The gross earnings per mile amounted to \$3,362 against \$3,753 the previous year, and the operating expenses \$2,764 against \$3,064 in 1876.

During the year there were 428 accidents on the railways, viz:—111 killed and 317 injured; 302 of these were railway employees, and 23 passengers. The number of passengers carried was 6,073,233. The number of miles under construction at June 30th, 1877, was 1,967.

The amounts expended by the Dominion and Local Governments on railways up to that date was—

Dominion Government...	\$63,296,380	78
Ontario do ...	3,250,769	74
Quebec do ...	10,295,506	00
New Brunswick do ...	2,833,000	00
Nova Scotia do ...	1,885,727	00
Total .....	\$81,561,383	00

By municipalities aid had been granted to the amount of \$11,263,353 78, viz:—

In Ontario.....	\$6,968,853	78
Quebec.....	3,723,000	00
New Brunswick.....	296,500	00
Nova Scotia.....	275,000	00
Total.....	\$11,263,353	70

making the total amount of Government and Municipal aid \$92,824,737, an increase over the preceding year of \$8,971,372 00.

The following tables give the statistics of the railways that sent in their returns to the General Superintendent. Some of them, that officer complains, treat with almost complete silence his urgent and repeated applications, and the returns are necessarily somewhat imperfect:—