

257. The United States has by far the greatest length of railway mileage in the world, being nearly six times as great as that of Germany, which stands second in the list. The United Kingdom ranks third, France fourth, and Russia fifth. Austria and India are the only other countries that have a greater length than Canada.

258. The railways owned by the Dominion Government are the Intercolonial, Windsor Branch, Eastern Extension and Prince Edward Island Railways, with a total of 1,185 miles in operation.

259. The main line of the Intercolonial runs from Point Lévis, Quebec, to Halifax, entirely through Canadian territory, and is 688 miles in length. The building of this road by the Government was one of the conditions on which the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia entered Confederation. It was provided for in the British North America Act, and the Imperial Government guaranteed the interest on a loan not exceeding \$15,000,000 towards the cost of its construction. The total mileage, including extensions, is 861 miles, and the total amount expended on the road up to 30th June, 1885, has been \$43,627,594.

260. Since the completion of this line, the Canadian mails for the United Kingdom, which had to be sent during the winter season *viâ* Portland, in the United States, are sent direct *viâ* Halifax, that place being the principal port of the Dominion on the Eastern coast.

261. The following tables show that the business of the Intercolonial is steadily increasing.

Earnings for the past six years :—

Year ended 30th June.

1880 .....	\$1,506,298
1881 .....	1,760,393
1882 .....	2,079,262
1883 .....	2,370,921
1884 .....	2,353,647
1885 .....	2,368,153

The amount of freight carried during the same period :—

	Tons.
1880 .....	561,924
1881 .....	725,577
1882 .....	838,956
1883 .....	970,961
1884 .....	1,001,163
1885 .....	970,069

The number of passengers carried during the same period :—

1880 .....	581,483
1881 .....	631,245
1882 .....	779,914
1883 .....	878,600
1884 .....	920,870
1885 .....	914,785