

CHAPTER VIII.

RAILWAYS.

Early
railways
in Canada

459. The first railway in Canada was opened on the 21st July, 1836, between Laprairie and St. Johns, in the Province of Quebec, its length being 16 miles, but such little progress in railway development was made that in 1850 there were but 71 miles in operation. In that year, however, several important undertakings were commenced, among which were the Grand Trunk, Great Western and Northern Railroads, and in 1860, ten years later, there were 2,087 miles in operation.

Progress
since Con-
federation

460. At the commencement of Confederation there were 2,258 miles in operation, in 1886 there were 10,715, showing an increase in nineteen years of 8,489 miles. In 1868 the paid-up capital amounted to \$160,471,190, and in 1886 to \$653,759,944. The total number of miles of completed railway in 1886 was 11,620; the above figures, therefore, represent an expenditure of \$56,184 per mile of completed railway. The railways have been largely aided by Government and municipal bonuses, amounting to \$124,318,533 and \$12,599,292 respectively. Government advances have also been made to the extent of \$29,491,191.

Govern-
ment and
municipal
aid.

Railway
statistics,
1875-1886.

461. The following table gives the mileage, train mileage, number of passengers and tons of freight carried, and the receipts and expenditure, of all railways in the Dominion, for each year during the last 12 years, beginning on the 1st July, 1874:—