

985. Taken according to population :

Ontario	has population,	43·7	per cent ;	railway miles,	39·8	per cent.
Quebec	“	30·8	“	“	19·5	“
Nova Scotia	“	9·3	“	“	5·5	“
New Brunswick	“	6·6	“	“	8·8	“
P. E. Island	“	2·3	“	“	1·3	“
Manitoba	“	3·2	“	“	9·1	“
Four N. W. Ter.	“	1·4	“	“	11·0	“
B. Columbia	“	2·0	“	“	5·0	“

986. The immense aid railways are to the Province of Manitoba and the North-west Territories is seen in the above statement. The country has provided those parts of the Dominion with railway facilities far in advance of population, it having been felt that if the great fertile plains are to become the habitation of millions of people, railway communication should precede population.

The statement is made that during the harvest of 1895, wheat to the value, at 50 cents per bushel, of one million dollars was cut every day. As but a small portion would be required for use within the province, the exportable surplus would be very large. In dealing with the export the advantage of having a railway like the Canadian Pacific is incalculable. The one year's crop has demonstrated the necessity of having railway communication, even though it seems in excess of the wants of the population judged by ordinary standards.

987. In 1850 there were sixty-six miles of railway in operation in all Canada, which increased to 2,065 miles in 1860, and to 2,278 miles in 1867, when the provinces were united. In the next ten years there was an increase of 3,304 in the mileage. In 1888 there were 12,184 miles in operation, and in 1895 the miles of railway in operation had increased to 15,977. Thus, since Confederation (1867) there has been an increase of 13,699 miles of railway in operation. In 1868 the paid-up capital amounted to \$160,471,190, and in 1895 to \$894,640,559.

Canada has 136 railways. Twenty-five of these have been amalgamated and form the Grand Trunk railway system. The consolidation of 22 others has produced the Canadian Pacific railway system. The remaining 89 have more or less consolidated, so that in all there are 76 separate organizations. Two of these are bridge companies, with $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of rails ; one is a tunnel, with $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles of rails, and two are electric railways, one nearly 14 miles long, the Niagara Falls Park and River Electric Railway, and one 22 miles in length, the Montreal Park and Island Railway, leaving 69 railways besides the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Grand Trunk and the Intercolonial.

The mileage (rails laid) of these several organizations is :—

Canadian Pacific	6,174 10
Grand Trunk	3,161 98
Intercolonial	1,383 60
Other railways	5,322 29
Electric railways (two)	35 71
Bridges and tunnel	6 08
Total	16,090 76