

The total railway mileage of Canada at the beginning of each decade from 1871 to 1911 and in 1917 was as follows: 1871, 2,695; 1881, 7,331; 1891, 13,838; 1901, 18,140; 1911, 25,400; 1917, 38,604. The railway mileage of Canada, at Confederation and in 1917, was by provinces as in Table 48.

48.—Railway Mileage by Provinces, 1867 and 1917.

Province.	1867.	1917.	Province.	1867.	1917.
Prince Edward Island . . . . .	—	278	Manitoba . . . . .	—	4,194
Nova Scotia . . . . .	145	1,422	Saskatchewan . . . . .	—	6,124
New Brunswick . . . . .	228	1,959	Alberta . . . . .	—	4,444
Quebec . . . . .	500	4,734	British Columbia . . . . .	—	3,885
Ontario . . . . .	1,415	11,049	Yukon Territory . . . . .	—	102
			In United States . . . . .	—	413
			Total . . . . .	2,288	38,604

The first transcontinental line through Canada, viz., the Canadian Pacific Railway, was opened in 1886, thus completing an enterprise which had been pursued with great courage and persistence in the face of many obstacles. The Canadian Pacific Railway Co. is now probably the largest commercial corporation in the world, and with its numerous branches has been a great factor in the development of the Prairie Provinces. The second transcontinental railway of Canada, built partly by the Dominion Government and partly by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, and the Canadian Northern line, constitute two other transcontinental systems which were completed during the year 1914. They provide access to large areas of excellent agricultural lands, which now only await the settler and the plough for the production of unlimited quantities of grain.

From \$716,445,134 in 1876, when steam railway statistics began to be collected, the capital liability of steam railways has grown to \$1,985,119,991 in 1917; the passengers carried who numbered 5,190,416 in 1875 were 53,749,680 in 1917, and the freight carried annually has increased from 5,670,836 tons in 1875 to 121,916,272 tons in 1917. Gross earnings which in 1875 were \$19,470,539 were in 1917 \$310,771,479. These figures are eloquent enough of the efforts which have been made to meet the constantly increasing demand for traffic facilities.

The electric railways of Canada, which consist principally of urban street tramways, are of comparatively recent development, and the official annual statistics with regard to them begin with 1901. In this year, the mileage of electric railways in Canada was 674, and in 1917 this had increased to 1,744. The number of passengers carried in a year increased from 120,934,656 in 1901 to 629,441,997 in 1917. The freight carried increased from 287,926 tons in 1901 to 2,333,539 tons in 1917, and the gross earnings from \$5,768,283 in 1901 to \$30,237,664 in 1917. The total capital liability