

The interest accruing upon the obligations of the railways is shown in Table 21 to have increased from \$38,196,268 in 1919 to \$69,632,747 in 1924, the great bulk of the increase being interest on the increased Government advances to the railways.

**21.—Debt and Interest Charges of Canadian National Railways (including appropriations for Canadian Government Railways), 1919-1924.**

PRINCIPAL.

Years.	Amount Outstanding Dec. 31.			Increase During Year.		
	Due to Public.	Due to Dominion Govt. and Accrued Interest.	Total.	Due to Public.	Due to Dominion Government.	Total.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1919.....	801,131,444	682,224,580	1,483,356,024	28,167,478	73,982,301	102,149,779
1920.....	820,550,681	808,449,391	1,629,000,072	19,419,237	126,224,811	145,644,048
1921.....	830,829,449	931,091,878	1,761,921,327	10,278,768	122,642,487	132,921,255
1922.....	804,503,144	1,016,746,002	1,821,249,146	-26,326,305	85,654,124	59,327,819
1923.....	823,099,056	1,114,183,276	1,937,282,331	18,595,912	97,437,274	116,033,186
1924.....	913,913,083	1,142,268,435	2,056,181,518	90,814,027	28,085,159	118,899,186
<b>Total Increase, 1919-1924.....</b>	-	-	-	<b>140,949,117</b>	<b>534,026,156</b>	<b>674,975,273</b>

INTEREST.

Years.	Accrued During Year.			Increase During Year.		
1919.....	28,599,687	9,596,581	38,196,268	669,715	3,517,851	4,187,566
1920.....	31,055,318	14,346,832	45,402,150	2,455,631	4,750,251	7,205,882
1921.....	34,476,014	20,966,782	55,442,796	3,420,696	6,619,950	10,040,646
1922.....	34,652,324	24,912,876	59,565,200	176,310	3,946,094	4,122,404
1923.....	35,041,380	30,157,944	65,199,324	389,056	5,245,068	5,634,124
1924.....	33,361,704	31,271,043	69,632,747	3,320,324	1,113,099	4,433,423

**III.—ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.**

The cheap and reasonably rapid conveyance of human beings is a necessity of the modern urban life which falls to the lot of an annually increasing percentage of the population of Canada. This necessity of life is supplied throughout Canada by the electric street railway, generally operated by the development of the water-powers which are so important a feature of Canadian economic life.

**Historical.**—Replacing the horse car systems, used in Montreal and Toronto as early as 1861, electric street railways were first seen in operation in Canada in 1885, when a successful experimental railway was constructed and operated at the Toronto Exhibition grounds. Before many years, their safety and convenience resulted in the discarding of the older system. An electric system 7 miles in length was opened at St. Catharines in 1887, using the double overhead trolley. This was followed by the completion of the Ottawa Electric railway in 1891, and the electrification of the Montreal and Toronto systems in 1892. The street railways of other eastern cities were generally electrified during the 1890's,