

PART II.—RAILWAYS*

The treatment of rail transportation is divided into three Sections dealing, respectively, with steam railways, electric railways and express companies.

Section 1.—Steam Railways

The steam railway is the most important transportation agency from the standpoint of investment and of traffic handled and the statistical field is more completely covered for this form of transportation than for any other.

Historical.—A brief historical sketch of the development of steam railways in Canada is given at pp. 635-638 of the 1940 Year Book. Other details are given at pp. 616-623 of the 1922-23 Year Book, at pp. 601-603 of the 1926 Year Book and at pp. 694-698 of the 1934-35 Year Book. An article at pp. 648-651 of the 1945 edition deals with the wartime role of the steam railways of Canada.

Subsection 1.—Mileage and Equipment of Steam Railways

Although construction was begun in 1835 on the first railway in Canada—the short link of 16 miles between Laprairie and St. Johns, Que.—there were only 66 miles of railway in operation by 1850. The first great period of construction was in the 1850's when the Grand Trunk and Great Western Railways, as well as numerous smaller lines, were built. The building of the Intercolonial and the Canadian Pacific Railways contributed to another period of rapid expansion in the 1870's and 1880's. In the last period of extensive railway building from 1900 to 1917, the Grand Trunk Pacific, National Transcontinental and Canadian Northern Railways were constructed.

During the past decade, there has been a tendency for railway mileages to decline slightly because of the abandonment of unprofitable lines. Of the 42,335 miles of single track operated in 1946, 21,556 were Canadian National lines.

* Revised and checked by G. S. Wrong, Director, Transportation Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. More detailed information is given in the annual reports of the Division. Certain of the financial statistics are compiled in co-operation with the Department of Transport.

1.—Record of Steam-Railway Mileage, 1900-46

NOTE.—Corresponding figures of total mileage of single track for the years 1835 to 1899 are given at p. 546 of the 1941 Year Book.

Total Mileage (Single Track)						Mileage, by Provinces				
Year	Miles in Operation	Year	Miles in Operation	Year	Miles in Operation	Type of Track and Province	1931	1936	1941	1946
	No.		No.		No.		miles	miles	miles	miles
1900....	17,657	1916..	36,985	1931..	42,280	Single Track—				
1901....	18,140	1917..	38,369	1932..	42,409	Prince Edward Island..	286	286	286	286
1902....	18,714	1918..	38,252	1933..	42,336	Nova Scotia.....	1,418	1,397	1,396	1,396
1903....	18,988	1919 ¹ ..	38,329	1934..	42,270	New Brunswick.....	1,934	1,871	1,836	1,836
1904....	19,431	1919 ² ..	38,495	1935..	42,916	Quebec.....	4,926	4,777	4,789	4,765
						Ontario.....	10,905	10,746	10,476	10,464
1905....	20,487	1920..	38,805	1936..	42,552	Manitoba.....	4,419	4,860	4,854	4,836
1906....	21,423	1921..	39,191	1937..	42,727	Saskatchewan.....	8,268	8,624	8,777	8,783
1907....	22,446	1922..	39,358	1938..	42,742	Alberta.....	5,630	5,687	5,747	5,686
1908....	22,966	1923..	39,654	1939..	42,637	British Columbia.....	4,097	3,907	3,883	3,886
1909....	24,104	1924..	40,059	1940..	42,565	Yukon.....	58	58	58	58
						In United States.....	339	339	339	339
1910....	24,731	1925..	40,350	1941..	42,441	Totals, Single Track...	42,280	42,552	42,441	42,335
1911....	25,400	1926..	40,350	1942..	42,339	Second track.....	2,688	2,500	2,499	2,486
1912....	26,840	1927..	40,570	1943..	42,346	Industrial track.....	1,606	1,401	1,551	1,870
1913....	29,304	1928..	41,022	1944..	42,336	Yard track and sidings...	10,277	10,239	10,210	10,314
1914....	30,795	1929..	41,380	1945..	42,352					
1915....	34,882	1930..	42,047	1946..	42,335					
						Grand Totals.....	56,851	56,692	56,701	57,005

¹ As at June 30 for this and previous years.

² As at Dec. 31 for this and later years.