

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

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 42,248 miles of single track operated in 1948, 21,467 were Canadian National lines.

1.—Record of Steam-Railway Mileage, 1900-48

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	1947	1948
	No.		No.		No.		No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1900	17,657	1917	38,369	1933	42,336	P.E.I.	286	286	286	286	286
1901	18,140	1918	38,252	1934	42,270	N.S.	1,418	1,397	1,396	1,396	1,396
1902	18,714	1919 ¹	38,329	1935	42,916	N.B.	1,934	1,871	1,836	1,835	1,835
1903	18,988	1919 ²	38,495	1936	42,552	Que.	4,926	4,777	4,789	4,765	4,765
1904	19,431	1920	38,805	1937	42,727	Ont.	10,905	10,746	10,476	10,464	10,464
						Man.	4,419	4,860	4,854	4,836	4,836
1905	20,487	1921	39,191	1938	42,742	Sask.	8,268	8,624	8,777	8,783	8,738
1906	21,423	1922	39,358	1939	42,637	Alta.	5,630	5,687	5,747	5,674	5,643
1907	22,446	1923	39,654	1940	42,565	B.C.	4,097	3,907	3,883	3,886	3,888
1908	22,966	1924	40,059	1941	42,441	Yukon.	58	58	58	58	58
1909	24,104	1925	40,350	1942	42,339	In U.S.A.	339	339	339	339	339
1910	24,731	1926	40,350	1943	42,346	Totals	42,280	42,552	42,441	42,322	42,248
1911	25,400	1927	40,570	1944	42,336	Single—					
1912	26,840	1928	41,022	1945	42,352	P.E.I.	286	286	286	286	286
1913	29,304	1929	41,380	1946	42,335	N.S.	1,418	1,397	1,396	1,396	1,396
1914	30,795	1930	42,047	1947	42,322	N.B.	1,934	1,871	1,836	1,835	1,835
1915	34,882	1931	42,280	1948	42,248	Que.	4,926	4,777	4,789	4,765	4,765
1916	36,985	1932	42,409			Ont.	10,905	10,746	10,476	10,464	10,464
						Man.	4,419	4,860	4,854	4,836	4,836
						Sask.	8,268	8,624	8,777	8,783	8,738
						Alta.	5,630	5,687	5,747	5,674	5,643
						B.C.	4,097	3,907	3,883	3,886	3,888
						Yukon.	58	58	58	58	58
						In U.S.A.	339	339	339	339	339
						Second.	2,688	2,500	2,499	2,489	2,495
						Industrial	1,606	1,401	1,551	1,908	1,892
						Yard and sidings	10,277	10,239	10,210	10,332	10,370
						Grand Totals	56,851	56,692	56,701	57,051	57,005

¹ As at June 30 for this and previous years.

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

Rolling-Stock.—The figures in Table 2 may be supplemented by the statement that between 1920 and 1948, the average capacity of box cars increased from 34·779 tons to 43·317 tons, of flat cars from 33·459 to 43·182 tons, of coal cars from 43·404 tons to 58·361 tons, and of all freight cars from 35·141 tons to 44·997 tons. The average tractive power of the locomotive increased from 31,112 lb. in 1920 to 42,052 lb. in 1948.