

CHAPTER XIX.—TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

Canada, nearly 4,000 miles in length from east to west, with the main topographic barriers running in a north-south direction and a relatively small population of 14,009,029 (1951 Census) unevenly distributed along the southern strip of this vast area, presents unusual difficulties from the standpoint of transportation and communication. Different parts of the country are shut off from each other by the Cabot Strait, the Strait of Belle Isle, by areas of rough, rocky forest terrain such as the region lying between New Brunswick and Quebec, the areas north of Lakes Huron and Superior dividing the industrial region of Ontario and Quebec from the agricultural areas of the Prairie Provinces, and the barriers interposed by the mountains of British Columbia. To such a country, with a population so dispersed and producing for export as well as for consumption in distant areas of the country itself, cheap transportation and efficient communication systems are necessities of existence.

The value of each of the principal agencies of transportation is appraised in Parts II, III, IV and V of this Chapter and the development of communication facilities in Parts VI, VII, VIII and IX. Government control over all such transportation and communication agencies is covered in Part I.