

The Board is currently devoting special attention to the publication of a uniform charter tariff and to the formulation of basic principles for the guidance of operators in the establishment of their rates and fares. Helicopter operations are under constant review by an economic and technical committee set up for the purpose.

In the field of international aviation, the Board continues to take an active part in the work of the International Civil Aviation Organization, a member of its staff being the representative of Canada on the Council.

Canadian Maritime Commission.—By authority of an Act of Parliament (R.S.C. 1952, c. 38) passed in 1947, the Canadian Maritime Commission was constituted for the purpose of examining into, keeping records of, and advising the Minister of Transport on matters pertaining to Canadian shipping and shipbuilding services. In addition to these duties, the Act empowers the Commission to:—

- (1) exercise and perform on behalf of the Minister such powers, duties and functions of the Minister under the Canada Shipping Act 1934, as the Minister may require;
- (2) administer, in accordance with regulations of the Governor in Council, any steamship subventions voted by Parliament; and
- (3) exercise or perform any other powers, duties or functions conferred on or required to be performed by the Commission by or pursuant to any other Act or order of the Governor in Council.

PART II.—RAIL TRANSPORT*

The treatment of rail transport in this Chapter is divided into three Sections dealing, respectively, with railways, express companies and urban transit systems.

Section 1.—Railways

Since Confederation the railways of Canada have been the principal utility for the movement of passengers and freight throughout, and beyond, the nation. The two great national systems, supplemented by a few regional independent railways, are the only carriers able to transport large volumes at low cost in all weather by continuous passage over Canadian transcontinental routes. Though competition by trucking firms is rapidly increasing, the railways still retain their primary position in the transport field.

The two national railway companies control a wide variety of Canadian and international transport and communication services. The government-owned Canadian National Railway System is the country's largest public utility and operates the greatest length of trackage in Canada. In addition, it operates a fleet of coastal and ocean-going steamships, a national telegraph system connecting the principal points of Canada with other parts of the world, an extensive express service in Canada and abroad, a chain of large hotels and resorts, and a scheduled air service connecting all major cities across the country and Canadian with North American and European points. Its chief competitor, the Canadian Pacific Railway, is a joint-stock corporation operating an extensive transcontinental railway supported by a national telegraph system with connections throughout the world, a large fleet of inland, coastal and ocean-going vessels, a chain of year-round and resort hotels, a domestic north-south airline which is one of the world's great air-freight carriers, a transpacific airline service to the Orient and the Antipodes, air services to Mexico, Peru, Chile and Argentina, a transpolar air route connecting Vancouver and Amsterdam, and a transatlantic service to Lisbon. A world-wide express service and a domestic truck and bus network are included in the Company's operations.

The statistics of Subsections 1 to 3 of this Section cover the combined railway facilities of all companies operating in Canada. Details relating to the Canadian National Railway System are dealt with separately in Subsection 4. A special article covering the consolidation and organization of the CNR appears in the 1955 Year Book, pp. 840-847.

* Revised in the Public Finance and Transportation Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics; more detailed information is given in the annual reports of the Division. Certain of the financial statistics were compiled in co-operation with the Department of Transport.