

## Subsection 1.—Milage and Equipment

Construction was begun in 1835 on the first railway in Canada—the short link of 14.5 miles between Laprairie and St. Johns, Que.—but only 66 miles were in operation by 1850. The first great period of construction was in the 1850's when the Grand Trunk and the Great Western Railways were built as well as numerous smaller lines. 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 (1900-1917), the Grand Trunk Pacific, National Transcontinental and Canadian Northern Railways were constructed.

Only a gradual increase has taken place in the milage of single track line since the 1920's. Recently, however, the development of a number of large industrial projects in districts far removed from transport facilities has necessitated the building of branch lines. Those constructed up to 1956 are listed in the 1957-58 Year Book at p. 815. In 1957, three new branches were added to the Canadian National System: in Quebec, a 161-mile line from Beattyville to Chibougamau was placed in operation, linking this mineral-rich area with the industrial centres of the province; in New Brunswick, a 23-mile line was completed between Bartibog and the base-metal development at Heath Steele; in Manitoba, the CNR took over a new 31-mile line from Sipiwek on the Hudson Bay line to the International Nickel Company development at Thompson. Still in the surveying stage was a branch line from Optic Lake to Chisel Lake in northern Manitoba, a distance of 52 miles. The Pacific Great Eastern Railway in British Columbia, with rail facilities extending 466 miles from Vancouver to Prince George, in 1958 officially opened 262 miles of track between Prince George and Fort St. John and 61 miles between Chetwynd and Dawson Creek (Little Prairie).

While new construction has added considerably to single track milage placed in operation in the past few years, other lines have been abandoned because they have become unprofitable so that new milage is not altogether reflected in the totals shown in Table 1. The British Columbia Electric Railway Company reported rail transport information for the first time in 1957 and contributed 103 miles of first main track milage to the total for that year.

## 1.—Railway Track Milage Operated, 1900-57

NOTE.—Figures of total milage of single track operated for 1835-1909 are given in the 1941 Year Book, p. 546; for 1911-14 in the 1954 edition, p. 786; for 1916-24 in the 1955 edition, p. 830; and for 1925-49 in the 1956 edition, p. 792.

SINGLE TRACK MILAGE		TRACK MILAGE BY PROVINCE AND TYPE				
Year	Miles in Operation	Province and Type of Track	1954	1955	1956	1957
	No.		No.	No.	No.	No.
1900.....	17,657	Single—				
1905.....	20,487	Newfoundland.....	705	910	934	934
1910.....	24,731	Prince Edward Island.....	285	285	285	285
1915.....	34,882	Nova Scotia.....	1,392	1,401	1,391	1,370
1920.....	38,805	New Brunswick.....	1,834	1,800	1,799	1,818
1925.....	40,350	Quebec.....	4,831	4,936	4,940	5,096
1930.....	42,047	Ontario.....	10,378	10,375	10,516	10,513
1935.....	42,916	Manitoba.....	4,979	4,979	4,974	5,005
1940.....	42,565	Saskatchewan.....	8,721	8,721	8,721	8,721
1945.....	42,352	Alberta.....	5,651	5,659	5,680	5,680
1950 <sup>1</sup> .....	42,979	British Columbia.....	3,959	3,981	4,015	4,071
		Yukon.....	58	58	58	58
		In United States.....	339	339	339	339
1951.....	42,956	<b>Totals, Single.....</b>	<b>43,132</b>	<b>43,444</b>	<b>43,652</b>	<b>43,890</b>
1952.....	42,953	Second.....	2,485	2,486	2,476	2,471
1953.....	43,163	Industrial.....	2,181	2,243	2,384	1,208
1954.....	43,132	Yard and sidings.....	10,962	11,142	11,318	11,528
1955.....	43,444	<b>Grand Totals.....</b>	<b>58,760<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>59,315<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>59,830<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>59,097<sup>2</sup></b>
1956.....	43,652					
1957.....	43,890					

<sup>1</sup> Newfoundland included from 1950.<sup>2</sup> Includes 45 miles of joint track.