

tion of the oil and gas pipelines that are under the jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada, the tolls charged for transmission by oil and gas pipeline, the export and import of gas and the export of electric power, and the construction of the lines over which such power is transmitted. During 1960 the most prominent activity of the Board was the processing and disposition of the applications for licences to export large quantities of natural gas which awaited the Board upon its creation in 1959. In 1961, its major activities were concerned with the implementation of the national oil policy and the processing of applications for renewal or issuance of licences to export electric power and energy. These activities are covered in more detail in the Foreign Trade Chapter of this volume (see Index).

PART II.—RAIL TRANSPORT*

Section 1.—Railways

Since Confederation the railways of Canada have been the principal transport facility throughout, and beyond, the nation. The two great national systems, supplemented by a recently completed north-south line on the West Coast and a number of regional independent railways, are the only carriers able to transport large volumes of freight at low cost in all weather by continuous passage over Canadian transcontinental routes. Though highway and air competition is increasing, the railways still retain their primary position in the freight 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 highway service, 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 other North American and European points. Its chief competitor, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, is a joint-stock corporation operating a 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 airline servicing points in British Columbia, Alberta and Yukon Territory, 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, a transatlantic service to Portugal, Spain and Italy, and a limited (one flight daily each way) transcontinental air service between Vancouver and Montreal. Also included in the company's operations are a world-wide express service and a domestic truck and bus network.

The Pacific Great Eastern Railway, owned by the British Columbia Government, operates over a 789.5-mile route from North Vancouver to Fort St. John in the Peace River area of northeastern British Columbia, with a branch line from Chetwynd to Dawson Creek. The completion in 1958 of the northern extension of this line opened up to development the vast interior of the province and brought to an end the largest railway construction job undertaken in North America for two decades. With the completion in May 1959 of the last link in the microwave system, the PGE became the first railway on the Continent to be operated entirely by means of radio communication.

The statistics of Subsections 1 to 3 of this Section cover the combined railway facilities of all companies operating in Canada, including intercity freight and passenger services of electric railway companies. 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 at 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.