

CHAPTER XIX.—TRANSPORTATION

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found on p. xvi of this volume.

The physiographic and population characteristics of Canada present unusual difficulties from the standpoint of transportation. The country extends 4,000 miles from east to west and its main topographic barriers run in a north-south direction, so that sections of the country are cut off from one another by such water barriers as Cabot Strait and the Strait of Belle Isle separating the Island of Newfoundland from the mainland; by rough, rocky forest terrain such as the New Brunswick-Quebec border region and 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 by the mountain barriers between the prairies and the Pacific Coast. To such a country, with a population so dispersed and producing for export as well as for consumption in distant parts of the country itself, efficient and economical transportation facilities are necessities of existence. The extent of its importance can be realized when it is estimated that gross domestic product originating with this industry is roughly 7 p.c. of the total product originating in the economy. Because Canada now has a tremendous capital investment in transport and because this large investment serves a relatively small market for transport services when compared with more heavily populated countries and countries of lesser extent, the provision of integrated and efficient services is a continuing problem to be faced through the application of every innovation and through constant study and research.

PART I.—GOVERNMENT PROMOTION AND REGULATION OF TRANSPORTATION

The Federal Government plays a twofold role in the development of transportation services. One is a promotional role, ensuring the growth and development of the kind of transportation appropriate to the times. The other is a regulatory role, including economic