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CANADIAN PACIFIC LIMITED

(Prepared in the Public Relations and Advertising Department,
Canadian Pacific, Ottawa.)

Canadian Pacific is a widely-diversified company with assets of more than \$3 billion in land, sea and air transportation, telecommunications, hotels and natural resources.

The company was incorporated on February 16, 1881, to build a transcontinental railway linking Eastern Canada with the Pacific coast. At the time, the new Canadian nation faced the threat of secession by British Columbia.

Led by men of vision such as George Stephen (later Lord Mount Stephen, first Canadian Pacific president), Donald Smith (later Lord Strathcona) and Sir William Van Horne (first general manager of the company and later president and chairman), the company completed Canada's first transcontinental rail line after five years of arduous construction.

The last spike in the main line between Montreal and Port Moody, B.C., was driven at Craigellachie, B.C., on November 7, 1885. Just a little more than six months later, on June 28, 1886, the first passenger train left Montreal for Port Moody.

One of the company's first tasks was to create traffic for the new railway, which crossed many hundreds of miles of sparsely-settled land. In 1887, three ships were chartered to carry tea and silk from the Orient to Canada's west coast and provide east-bound freight for the railway.

Hotels and tea-houses were established in the wilderness to give food and shelter to train passengers. Company colonization programs brought British and European settlers to the prairies and company irrigation schemes made cultivation possible. Telegraph services, first used for train dispatching, became available to prairie homesteaders and to Canada as a whole.

From these beginnings, Canadian Pacific has developed into a recognized leader in the development of multi-modal transportation systems. The company controls a transportation network encompassing approximately 100,000 miles of rail, truck, ship and air lines, as well as related communications facilities.

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