

systems. His personality dominated the first decade of CN's existence, and his confidence in the eventual success of the publicly-owned company proved to be justified.

In five years, Sir Henry's policies succeeded in vitalizing and integrating the system, giving it a reputation for efficient service and showing its capacity to produce a substantial net revenue. There were other noteworthy accomplishments in those days as well. CN pioneered radio broadcasting in Canada and developed and operated the first diesel locomotive to be used in North America.

It started a West Indies steamship passenger service, built Jasper Park Lodge — a summer resort hotel — and a cross-country chain of year-round hotels, and laid out the first plans for a Montreal terminal development.

The company survived, though only just, the financial and business crises of the Depression and went on to provide outstanding service during the Second World War. In 1944, operating revenues were three times those of the worst Depression year. The formidable task of the CN had been accomplished in a country with the lowest freight-rate a ton mile in the world, except for Japan.

Modernization Canadian National became the first major Canadian railway to be completely dieselized, and now possesses a fleet of more than 2,200 diesel-electric locomotives. The system also has more than 108,800 freight-cars, many of which are designed to carry specific products. In addition, CN has 1,700 units of passenger equipment in service.

CN's main transcontinental track is under centralized traffic control. This increases operating efficiency and adds to the already enviable safety record of railway transport.

Great strides in modernization have been made in the marshalling of trains in CN's automatic electronic freight-classification yards at Moncton, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Edmonton. Significant improvements in the use of freight-cars and diesel engines have also become possible with the introduction of new computerized information systems to assist in freight-car distribution and with the centralization of motive-power control in Montreal.

Variety of services Canadian National is a rail-centred transportation company, moving goods, people and messages in a variety of ways.