

Today the system stands as a monumental tribute to the vision and efforts of its pioneers and its early and present-day management. CN is the biggest business enterprise of its kind on the continent and Canada's largest business and employer and purchaser of materials and supplies. The company's assets are valued at more than \$3 billion, putting it on a par with the world's biggest chemical corporation, Dupont.

#### Modernization Programme

Canadian National became the first major Canadian railway to be dieselized, and now boasts a fleet of more than 2,100 diesel-electric locomotives. The system also has more than 100,000 freight cars of all classifications, as well as 2,843 units of passenger equipment.

Practically all the CN's main transcontinental trackage is now under Centralized Traffic Control, which permits its greater use and adds to the already enviable safety record of railway transport.

Great strides in modernization have been made in the marshalling of trains with the opening of three new electronic freight-classification yards (also known as hump yards) in Moncton (New Brunswick), Montreal and Winnipeg (Manitoba). A yard now under construction at Toronto is expected to be fully operational by early 1965.

#### Variety of Services

In all, Canadian National maintains and operates more than 34,000 miles of track, over 1,100 miles of which is in the United States. In addition, CN operates six car ferries on Canada's East Coast, 13 coastal steamers round Newfoundland and Labrador and a luxury-cruise ship up the West Coast of Canada to Alaska. To complement these services, CN maintains a large truck fleet, and this, as well as its "piggyback" fleet (trailers on flat cars), enables the company to provide door-to-door pickup-and-delivery service - a complete transportation system.

Canadian National's communications arm, CN Telecommunications, operates a network of microwave systems, telegraph, telephone and Telex lines that span the nation and link Canada with the world. In 1962, CN completed a 1,200-mile microwave link that stretches from Grande Prairie, Alberta, to the Yukon-Alaska border.

This year, jointly with Canadian Pacific Telecommunications, CNT is building a microwave network more than 3,000 miles long from Montreal to Vancouver.

Also under construction by CNT is a 1,020-mile telephone-pole line running the length of the Mackenzie River from Hay River, Northwest Territories, to Inuvik in the Arctic Circle. When completed in 1965, the multi-channel system will provide simultaneous long-distance telephone, telegraph, teletype, Telex, air operation control and weather communications to Fort Simpson, Wrigley, Fort Norman, Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope and Inuvik. In addition, Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Arctic Red River will be linked to the system at Inuvik by VHF (very-high frequency) radio communications.

No stranger to the Northwest Territories, CNT now has local dial telephone exchanges at Fort Simpson, Norman Wells and Inuvik, in addition to a microwave and pole system linking Yellowknife and other communities round Great Slave Lake with "the outside" via Hay River. CNT is also constructing a 554-mile tropospheric scatterwave communications system from Hay River to Lady Franklin Point on Victoria Island in the Arctic.

The railway owns many large central areas in the major Canadian cities. To capitalize on these, CN in recent years has offered them to private developers.