

TRANSPORTATION

Rail

Canada, as a land of vast distances and extremes of climate, has more than a passing interest in transportation. Railroads, for example, were vital to Confederation, linking Canada's provinces from coast to coast.

Today, Canada has two major railroad systems, the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National (a Crown corporation), several smaller systems run by the provinces and the privately owned Algoma Central Railway. From a short trackage between Laprairie and St. Jean, in Quebec in 1836, Canada's main track mileage is now over 43,000. With secondary, industrial and yard lines, the track mileage is almost 60,000.

Sea

Shipping played an important part in Canada's history. Ships built in Quebec and the Maritimes led the British fleets by the beginning of the nineteenth century.

A Canadian ship made the first Atlantic crossing by steam, in 1833. A Nova Scotian, Samuel Cunard, founded the shipping line which bears his name, in 1839.

Perhaps the most famous of all Canadian ships is the schooner *Bluenose*. Launched at Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, in 1921, she was the sailing champion of the Atlantic fishing fleets for twenty years. She is commemorated on the Canadian 10 cent piece. Canada has also pioneered in icebreaker design, and it was the Canadian icebreaker *John A. Macdonald*