

# THE RAILWAY & SHIPPING WORLD,

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The Official Organ of  
The Canadian Freight Association,  
The Canadian Roadmasters' Association,  
The Canadian Ticket Agents' Association.

PUBLICATION OFFICE,  
33 MELINDA STREET, TORONTO, CANADA.  
Bell Telephone, Main 3201.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, postage prepaid to Canada and  
the United States, \$1 a year; to Great Britain and other  
countries in the Postal Union, \$1.25 (5 shillings sterling).  
The best and safest way to remit is by express or post  
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TORONTO, CANADA, FEBRUARY, 1904.

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NEXT ANNUAL MEETING of the Grand Council, Jan.  
1905.

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## VICTORIA STATE RAILWAYS, AUSTRALIA.—

The report of the Railway Commission was  
recently presented to the Victoria State Par-  
liament, and as it is the first for which Thos.  
Tait, formerly Manager of Transportation  
C.P.R., now Chairman of the Commission, is  
responsible, it is of interest to Canadians.  
The Melbourne Age says that the report  
"possesses features of which Mr. Tait and his  
colleagues are justly proud, and from a com-  
parative standpoint the results may be re-  
garded as highly satisfactory. The effects of  
the new management are already showing  
themselves in the tangible form of a consider-  
able reduction of working expenditure." The  
gross revenue for the year ended June 30,  
1903, was £3,046,858, or £320,985 less than in  
1901-02, largely due to the failure of the crops  
owing to drought. The working expenditure  
was £1,938,580, a decrease of £133,794 when  
compared with the expenses for 1901-02. The  
working expenses do not include £93,507 for  
pensions and gratuities. The train mileage  
has been reduced by 998,672 by closing up  
useless branch lines. During the year 92

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cars were equipped with the Pintsch system  
of gas lighting by the Safety Car Heating and  
Lighting Co.; and 157 trucks were fitted with  
the Westinghouse brake, and seven with  
brake pipes only. After analysing the figures  
the Melbourne Age adds: "Now it is demon-  
strated that the men who have planned the  
changes and economies are real experts,  
whose work is justified by the results."

THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, con-  
sisting of J. Bertram, Toronto; E. C. Fry,  
Quebec, and R. Reford, Montreal, appointed  
by the Dominion Government to make an in-  
vestigation into transportation matters in the  
Dominion, has commenced its sittings. The  
secretaries are J. X. Perrault, of Montreal,  
and C. N. Bell, of Winnipeg. J. Bertram, the  
chairman, stated that the chief work of the  
Commission will be to facilitate the traffic of  
Canada along the easiest routes in the Do-  
minion; the first problem to be solved will  
likely be that of finding the shortest and  
cheapest route from Lake Superior to the  
markets of England; then will come the prob-  
lem of a port on Hudson's Bay, that will be  
the natural port of a large part of the North-  
west. The Commission commenced its sit-  
tings for the taking of evidence, and for the  
inspection of facilities at various ports in the  
maritime provinces, visiting Halifax, Sydney,  
St. John and St. Andrews for this purpose.