

29. A special problem is presented by congestion in the Montreal terminal area, which not only serves a heavy concentration of industry but is also a focal point for through freight traffic to and from the Maritime Provinces and the United States. Turcot yards, the main facility, are hemmed in near the centre of the city, and as a practical matter it is not possible to expand capacity sufficiently to accommodate the steadily growing volume of traffic. Long range plans have, therefore, been formulated for the construction of a modern hump yard in the Cote de Liesse area to be used for the marshalling of trains. Meanwhile, as a necessary interim measure, work has been proceeding on a program of track extensions in Turcot yards, which facility will eventually be required as a storage and supporting yard.

GENERAL

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

1. The year 1951 carried forward in record breaking measure the process of growth and development by which Canada has begun to evolve into a more diversified and better balanced economy with a broad industrial structure giving promise of support to a larger internal market. While the rapid development of mineral and forestry resources has been most noticeable, there has also been substantial expansion of secondary and manufacturing industries. Meanwhile the steady growth of the world's population has underscored the importance of Canada's farm and fishery resources.

2. Typical of development in the mining industry have been the extensive and continuing discoveries of iron ore in Ontario, Quebec, and Labrador, and of petroleum and natural gas in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. Far from being a deficiency country in these basic materials, Canada bids fair shortly to become one of the world's major sources of supply. The development of new processing industries is illustrated by the actual or planned construction of plants for the treatment of titanium, nickel, zinc and sulphur. Further evidence of the trend toward industrial maturity is seen in the manufacture of textile synthetics, industrial chemicals including petro-chemical products, and a range of steel products some of which have never before been produced in Canada.

3. The quickening pace of resource development, accompanied by a growing population, has led to the achievement of a new record in national output. The Gross National Product in 1951, adjusted for price changes, appears to have been no less than 90% higher than in 1939.

4. As the largest public utility serving the nation, the Canadian National is continuing to play a vital role in this process of expansion.

5. During 1951 more than 194,000 immigrants entered the country, the largest inflow since 1913, and 294 special trains were operated by the Canadian National from ports of arrival to accommodate immigrants from overseas. Trained staffs of interpreters and other experienced personnel were used extensively in carrying out the reception and transportation arrangements.

6. Throughout the year a considerable number of firms planning new plant locations availed themselves of the technical and consulting services provided by the Company's industrial development officers.

7. Consideration has been given to the acquisition of the National Harbours Board trackage on both sides of Burrard Inlet, with a view to encouraging development of a new and large industrial area on the North Shore of Vancouver Harbour. However, no agreement has yet been reached with various municipal authorities in respect of operation over the Second Narrows Bridge.