

Railway Construction in 1895.

The Railway Age says. "Railway building in the United States reached last year a lower point than in any of the last twenty years indeed, in only two years since 1865, thirty year ago, has so small a mileage been built. Our records for 1895 now show only 1,782 miles of track laid, a tremendous decline from the great year of 1887, when almost 13,000 miles were put down. In the eight years since that time the decrease in construction has been great and continuous, and this year the total built was only about 100 miles more than in 1855—fifty five years ago. How the new track laid in 1895 is distributed will be seen from the following table, to which it is possible final returns may make a slight addition:

TRACK LAID DURING 1895.

	Lines.	Miles.
Alabama.....	6	53.49
Arizona.....	2	63.90
Arkansas.....	5	92.00
California.....	7	95.50
Colorado.....	2	35.90
Florida.....	8	71.25
Georgia.....	7	81.75
Indiana.....	4	16.92
Indian Territory.....	3	149.71
Illinois.....	8	78.93
Iowa.....	1	11.66
Kansas.....	2	17.70
Kentucky.....	4	25.00
Louisiana.....	4	50.83
Maine.....	4	85.14
Maryland.....	2	2.70
Michigan.....	10	76.90
Minnesota.....	7	93.96
Mississippi.....	3	13.00
Missouri.....	2	33.43
Montana.....	2	10.10
New Jersey.....	1	5.00
New York.....	8	68.81
North Carolina.....	5	39.30
Ohio.....	10	87.65
Oklahoma.....	1	47.83
Pennsylvania.....	13	86.57
South Carolina.....	1	6.33
Texas.....	13	224.22
Utah.....	2	10.00
Virginia.....	3	43.00
Washington.....	1	2.61
West Virginia.....	7	85.92
Wisconsin.....	5	35.50
Total in 34 states and territories.....	163	1,782.39

SUMMARY BY TERRITORIAL GROUPS.

	No States	Lines	Miles
New England group.....	1	4	86
Middle Atlantic group....	4	24	164
Central northern group....	5	37	295
South Atlantic group.....	6	31	327
Gulf & Mississippi valley group.....	4	17	142
Southwestern group.....	7	23	540
Northwestern group.....	3	10	56
Pacific group.....	4	12	172
	34	163	1,783

"For the neighboring countries on the north and south our record show: Canada, 14 lines.....miles added, 192.75 Mexico, 4 lines.....miles added, 75.65

"Not only are the mileage and number of new lines for 1895 smaller than the annual totals for many years, but the number of states in which no track was laid is larger. Of the forty-nine states and territories into which the country is now divided fifteen made no increase of railway mileage last year, namely: New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Tennessee, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho and New Mexico.

"Only one New England state added any track. The largest mileage laid was in Texas, 224 miles, followed by Indian Territory with 150, California with 96, and Ohio. Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maine and Georgia with between 80 and 90 each. The southwestern group of seven states added 540 miles on 28 lines, while the ten states in the south Atlantic and Gulf and Mississippi valley groups come next with 452 miles on 43 lines, the greater part of the new mileage thus being in the south and southwest. The new construction in general consisted of short branches and extensions, the average for the 164 lines built being only a little over 10 miles each.

The rapid decrease in railway building in the last years may be seen in the following figures from our record of actual construction:

	Track laid, Miles.
1837.....	12,983
1838.....	7,106
1839.....	5,230
1890.....	5,670
1891.....	4,281
1892.....	4,192
1893.....	2,635
1894.....	1,919
1895.....	1,782

"The bottom has been reached, and a moderate revival of railway building may be looked for. Materials are exceedingly cheap, labor is abundant, practicable enterprises are numerous, and on some of them much work has been done; business is reviving in spite of terrific assaults from political and speculative quarters. The railways of the United States on December 31, 1895, aggregated a little over 181,000 miles."

United States Trade with Britain.

What war between the States and the British Empire would mean, in the interruption of commerce, is illustrated by the following table of imports and exports.

In response to a Senate resolution the Secretary of the U. S. Treasury sent to the Senate last month a statement, showing during each of the last five years, and for the whole period, the gross amount of the imports from ports of Great Britain and her colonies and dependencies, into the republic, together with the amount of the exports to such ports. The totals for the whole period of five years are as follows:

United Kingdom, imports from\$	800,340,150
Do., exports.....	1,184,043,634
Bermuda imports.....	2,222,463
Do., exports.....	3,620,675
British Honduras imports.....	902,554
Do., exports.....	2,050,967
Canada, including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, etc. imports.....	170,184,682
Do., exports.....	237,760,759
Newfoundland and Labrador imports.....	2,103,627
Do., exports.....	7,493,483
British West Indies imports.....	67,556,590
Do., exports.....	42,220,495
British Guiana imports.....	21,021,262
Do., exports.....	9,913,067
Hong Kong imports.....	3,873,663
Do., exports.....	2,842,235
British India and East Indies imports.....	110,191,321
Do., exports.....	18,410,214
British Australia imports.....	30,635,933
Do., exports.....	49,471,244
British Africa imports.....	37,372,725
Do., exports.....	19,428,824
All other British dependencies, including Aden, Falkland Islands, Malta, etc., imports.....	9,319,592
Do., exports.....	2,840,060
Total.....	\$2,787,157,107



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