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CANADA AS A NATION.

BY

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In the early part of last November there appeared in the newspapers of America and Europe a brief announcement that the Canadian Pacific Railway had commenced to run its trains from the city of Montreal on the St. Lawrence River as far as the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Upon the majority of persons the mere mention of this fact probably made little impression at the time, but to every one who has an interest in the progress of the new Dominion it must have afforded the most conclusive evidence of the remarkable energy and enterprise of a country whose total population does not yet exceed five million souls. If any one wishes to appreciate the full significance of this item of news, placed very likely in some cases in an obscure corner of a European newspaper, let him take up a map of North America and carefully trace out the route of the new railway from the province of Quebec to British Columbia, and he will soon obtain some idea of the magnitude of the task which Canada has achieved within a decade of years. This great road runs through about three thousand miles of country, the greater part of which is still a wilderness. By its connections at Montreal — the North Shore, the Grand Trunk and the Intercolonial Railways — Canada now possesses an uninterrupted line of rail communication between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans of three thousand eight hundred miles. This great system of railways has been completed within eighteen years — since the commencement of Confederation — by the unaided efforts of the Canadian people. The present Governor-General of Canada, the Marquess of Lansdowne, has very truly said that when we consider "the physical difficulties which had to be overcome,