

separating the prairies from the Pacific coast province of British Columbia. If the means to bridge these great natural barriers had not been found, Canada would probably never have achieved nationhood.

The highlights of transportation development and progress in Canada are many and varied: the construction of the St. Lawrence canals system prior to 1867; the stitching together of the various sections of Canada by the railway systems; the advent of the motor vehicle; early exploration of the North by air and the founding of national airlines. Then, following the Second World War, came the growth of truck transportation, the building of pipelines for oil and gas, the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway, and the linking up of the Trans-Canada Highway, not to mention the addition of major causeways, bridges, tunnels and ferries.

Canada has developed one of the finest transportation systems in the world. The publicly-owned Canadian National is North America's largest and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is the world's largest stockholder-owned railway system.

The two major airlines, Air Canada, publicly-owned, and Canadian Pacific Airlines, which is stockholder-owned, provide exceptionally high standards of service and between them connect Canada with most of the world by regularly scheduled passenger and cargo services over a total of more than 100,000 miles of air routes.

The St. Lawrence Seaway, reaching deep into the heart of North America, over 2,000 miles from the Atlantic, brings ocean shipping to the doorsteps of major industries providing economical transportation for much of the continent's goods, thus greatly assisting Canada's position as a major trading nation.

Pipelines have also been important in making it possible for Canada to develop its oil and natural gas resources economically. One of the world's longest pipelines, for instance, runs from Edmonton, Alberta, for 2,023 miles to Port Credit, near Toronto, Ontario. More than 15,000 miles of main transmission-lines have been built since the first oil discoveries in the late 1940s.

History of Trade Relations

For Canada, implementation of the Kennedy Round of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) negotiations will represent a complete turn of the wheel in Canada's external trade environment, from reciprocal free trade with the United States, through a system of high tariffs, to a preferential system, and back again to freer trading policies.

In the years immediately before Confederation in 1867, the colonies which then joined together had enjoyed free trade with the United States in primary products. This had been sought by the colonies as an offset to earlier losses of preferences in the British market; it had been negotiated by Britain on their behalf in the belief that it would promote economic viability in these then British territories and thus would help to avoid political union with the United States. This was in 1854.