

A project which was expected in certain quarters to work a revolution in assurance and annuity business was initiated in 1864 in the shape of the Government Scheme of Life Assurance and Annuities to be worked through the Post Office. Before introducing into Parliament the Bill for authorising the scheme, it appears from a paper by Mr. Adler in vol. xii. of the *Journal*, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had an interview with the Actuaries of several London Assurance Offices, though he was opposed to a general enquiry, and the calling for "persons, papers and records" by the Select Committee to whom the Bill was referred. By the Government Bill the minimum amount of a life policy was fixed at £20, and the maximum at £100. Instead of achieving the success it was expected to attain to at its origination, the Scheme of Government Assurance has, as is well known, been pretty much of a failure.

(To be Continued.)

CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

We present in this issue two tables embracing the more important items in the railway statistics of Canada. In one is given the length, the amount of paid up capital, the passenger and freight business, and the proportion which working expenses bore to receipts last year, and in 1896, for each of the nineteen principle lines, and the totals for the other railways, and those operated by the Government. In another table we give comparisons of the principle feature in the business of the railways for each year, from 1888 to 1897, inclusive, and for 1875. The following shows the extent of the capital engaged in these enterprises in Canada, with the sources from which it was derived, the capital account of 1897 being compared with 1895 and 1896:—

SOURCE OF CAPITAL.	1897.	1896.	1895.
Ordinary Share Capital.	\$ 260,376,517	\$ 255,807,476	\$ 255,769,556
Preference " "	107,234,531	105,267,864	105,680,031
Bonded Debt	348,834,986	336,137,601	330,785,546
Subsidies from,			
Dominion Government.	149,939,386	149,413,303	150,763,283
Ontario " "	7,119,065	6,932,388	6,747,238
Quebec " "	15,409,440	14,522,899	14,426,304
Nova Brunswick "	4,462,671	4,450,489	4,454,800
New Scotia " "	1,517,108	1,487,109	1,437,108
Manitoba " "	2,625,562	2,625,562	2,625,562
Brit. Columbia " "	37,500	37,500	37,500
Municipalities.....	15,610,868	14,394,757	14,180,667
Capital from other sources.	8,694,498	8,610,952	7,733,941
Totals.....	\$921,858,232	\$899,817,900	\$894,640,559

The expansion which has taken place since 1875 in the railway facilities provided by Canadian lines exhibits in a very striking manner the growth of the business of this country in the last twenty-three years. The following puts this "in a nutshell":—

	1897.	1875.	Increase in 23 Years.
Miles in operation.....	16,550	4,856	11,694
Passengers.....	16,171,338	5,190,416	10,980,912
Tons of freight.....	25,300,341	5,670,836	19,629,495
Earnings.....	\$52,353,277	19,470,539	32,882,738

The distribution of the lines in the several Provinces stands as follows:—

	Miles.		Miles.
Ontario.....	6,647	P. E. Island.....	210
Quebec.....	3,242	Manitoba.....	1,575
New Brunswick.....	1,453	N. W. Territories.....	1,780
Nova Scotia.....	930	British Columbia.....	860

Taking these statistics with those of our magnificent waterways, more especially the unrivalled river which runs from this port of Montreal to the ocean, we find the transport facilities of this Dominion to be unsurpassed by those of any other country.

THE RAILWAYS OF CANADA.

Table compiled from official sources showing the length, the capital, and the active business of the Railway in Canada.

Canadian Railways.	Miles in Operation.		Paid-up Capital.		No. of Passengers carried.		Tons of Freight carried.		Ratio of Expenses to Receipts.	
	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.
	Miles.	Miles.	\$	\$	No.	No.	Tons.	Tons.	P. ct.	P. ct.
Canada Atlantic.....	176	176	8,048,355	8,048,355	187,887	175,191	643,293	506,806	65.4	71.5
Ottawa, Arnprior & Parry Sound.....	260	164	6,191,778	3,249,900	92,419	88,384	183,376	110,252	72.5	75.0
Canada Eastern.....	136	136	2,087,365	2,072,907	54,995	54,137	100,980	95,090	61.5	63.6
" Southern.....	382	382	35,435,666	35,434,266	491,071	496,039	3,522,052	3,358,563	63.9	67.1
Calgary & Edmonton	295	295	6,458,940	6,458,940	9,476	10,361	27,018	23,001	47.8	60.8
Can. Pac. System.....	6,280	6,211	320,827,541	309,667,959	2,987,163	3,036,619	4,640,578	4,576,632	58.6	60.5
Central Ontario.....	114	104	3,170,000	3,170,000	53,599	52,504	83,903	90,754	79.9	77.5
Dominion Atlantic..	220	220	8,112,409	7,709,732	212,347	197,102	159,148	210,780	66.0	73.9
Grand Trunk System	3,147	3,147	339,848,786	337,463,857	5,559,105	5,077,671	7,948,998	7,587,148	66.9	69.9
Kingston & Pemb'ke	113	113	5,993,813	5,993,813	32,479	37,183	80,677	68,710	82.8	93.2
Lake Erie & Detroit River.....	112	112	2,630,492	1,800,020	253,387	258,083	174,021	183,801	67.4	69.1
Man. & N. Western.	250	250	11,078,174	11,078,174	33,331	27,945	146,912	105,608	76.7	77.9
Montreal & Atlantic.	201	201	5,915,874	5,915,874	158,572	169,795	540,813	637,890	102.6	90.1
Northern Pac. & Manitoba.....	265	265	7,542,250	7,542,250	36,241	38,684	138,531	166,466	131.7	98.9
Qu'Appelle & Saskatchewan.....	254	254	4,010,140	4,010,140	3,135	3,097	16,229	11,592	79.9	79.1
Quebec & L. St. John	281	281	13,173,160	12,856,663	130,069	128,846	150,346	144,390	88.5	88.3
Quebec Central.....	213	213	9,902,268	9,878,518	132,086	120,318	260,880	212,873	65.0	69.5
Temiscouata.....	113	113	4,227,583	4,227,583	14,693	15,752	28,995	23,362	90.1	105.3
Drummond County..	91	91	1,229,040	1,144,793	22,593	23,773	126,040	108,935	64.9	68.8
Other lines.....	2,287	2,182	66,807,875	63,676,546	4,684,662	3,204,471	4,979,366	4,618,159	81.0	83.9
Total.....	15,190	14,910	862,601,509	840,800,290	14,548,150	13,215,955	23,952,156	22,840,812	64.8	67.0
Govt. Railways.....	1,360	1,300	59,166,723	59,017,610	1,623,188	1,594,452	1,348,175	1,426,013	104.9	104.3
Total for Canada..	16,550	16,270	921,858,232	899,817,900	16,171,338	14,810,407	25,300,331	24,266,825	67.18	69.3