

SYNOPTICAL HISTORY
OF THE
GRAND TRUNK SYSTEM
OF RAILWAYS.

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THE railway era of Canada was inaugurated in 1832 by the incorporation and construction of the Champlain & St. Lawrence Railway, between Laprairie, P.Q., (opposite Montreal) and St. Johns, P.Q., on the Richelieu River, a distance of 17.38 miles, constituting a part of the through rail and water route between Montreal and New York via the Richelieu River, Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. In 1872 this railway was absorbed into the present Grand Trunk Railway, which is generally known as the "Pioneer Railway of Canada". It was chartered in 1852 by the Province of Upper and Lower Canada, preceding by 15 years the Act of Confederation, under which the present Dominion of Canada was created. This charter, with subsequent additions, provided for the construction of the present railway from Riviere du Loup, P.Q., to Sarnia, Ont., and which was completed in 1858. At that time Canada's population was about 3,100,000.

The Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad was chartered in 1845, and built from Portland, Me., to the boundary line near Norton Mills, Vt., and upon completion was leased for 999 years to the Grand Trunk, thus affording access to an open winter port, which was available during the closed season for the Canadian ports. On this account the people of Canada granted this Railway valuable aid, by cash and mail subsidies, and otherwise. Its completion provided a

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