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How National Development Has Been Assisted By Railroad

The Grand Trunk has sixty-seven years of public service to its credit. It is not only Canada's pioneer railway, but stands prominent among the pioneer railways of America. It links up the principal cities of Canada and connects them in turn with many of the great producing centres of the United States. With the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway it serves more than 89% of Canada's urban population grouped in the principal cities. No railway in the world operates such a length of continuous double track as does the Grand Trunk in its main line from Montreal to Chicago. In the Province of Ontario alone the company has 3,000 miles of railway.

The celebrations at Montreal this year in honor of Sir George Ettienné Cartier, at which His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales will be present, recall the fact that the distinguished Father of Confederation presented to the Canadian Legislature the act to incorporate the Grand Trunk Railway. "I am prouder of that than any other action of my life", said Cartier, adding that the line was "the greatest benefit that had ever been conferred upon the country".

Investors in England supplied the large amount of capital necessary for the construction of this pioneer railroad, and in spite of unforeseen difficulties the Grand Trunk steadily persevered in the task it had undertaken, year by year extending its lines, developing its facilities and improving its service. The benefits to the national welfare of Canada which have followed as the result of the creation of the Grand Trunk Railway stand out very clearly when the history of the first half century of the Dominion's progress is examined. No single force, it has been declared, more powerfully contributed to the growth of Canada along rational lines. The immigration movement which has peopled the territories of the Dominion was cradled by the Grand Trunk, which supplied the first means of reaching by rail the Northwest from Quebec, Montreal and Portland. The building of the road stimulated trade of all descriptions, large expenditures of capital being made and thousands of men employed. New towns were established where hitherto there had been only forests of oak and hardwood.

To-day, after more than sixty years of public service the Grand Trunk continues to render the service which the growing needs of the country demand as Canada takes her place among the mighty nations of the earth.