

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is essential to the survival of a country like Canada, exceeding 3,200 miles in breadth and almost 3,000 miles in depth from its southern border to the northern tip of Ellesmere Island; and the successful development of its vast transportation systems chiefly accounts for Canada's current status as a prosperous industrial nation.

Most prominent among these systems are the railways. Of these, two transcontinental systems, the government-owned Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, provide 88 per cent of all rail transportation. There are approximately 64,000 miles of track throughout the country, and the railways today carry about 35 per cent of the ton-miles of freight and 3 per cent of passenger traffic.

The modernization of Canada's railway systems in recent years is attested by the complete changeover from steam to diesel locomotion, electronically-operated freight yards, data-processing systems for operational, accounting and statistical purposes, the construction of new rail lines into the more remote mining areas in Canada's North, and the elimination of certain uneconomical lines and services.

The importance of road transportation in Canada is emphasized by the fact that there are about 515,000 miles of roads and streets, the vast majority of which are surfaced; there are almost 9.0 million motor-vehicles registered in Canada, and the average mileage driven by Canadian motorists annually exceeds 8,900. The automobile accounts for approximately 88 per cent of all passenger-miles travelled each year.