

In five years, Sir Henry's policies succeeded in vitalizing and integrating the system, giving it a reputation for efficient service and showing its capacity to produce a substantial net revenue. There were other noteworthy accomplishments in those days as well. CN pioneered radio broadcasting in Canada, and developed and operated the first diesel locomotive to be used in North America. It started a West Indies steamship passenger service, built Jasper Park Lodge - a summer resort hotel - and a cross-country chain of year-round hotels, and laid out the first plans for a Montreal terminal development.

The company survived, though only just, the financial and business crisis of the depression and went on to provide outstanding service during the Second World War. In 1944, operating revenues were three times those of the worst depression year. The formidable task of the CN had been accomplished in a country with the lowest freight-rate a ton-mile in the world, except for Japan.

Today the system stands as a monumental tribute to the vision and efforts of its pioneers and its early and present-day management. CN is the biggest business enterprise of its kind on the continent and Canada's largest business, and employer, and purchaser of materials and supplies. The company's assets are valued at \$3.9 billion.

Modernization Programme

Canadian National became the first major Canadian railway to be completely dieselized, and now possesses a fleet of more than 2,000 diesel-electric locomotives. The system also has more than 105,000 freight-cars, many of which are designed to carry specific products. In addition, CN has 2,538 units of passenger equipment in service.

Practically all the CN's main transcontinental track is now under Centralized Traffic Control. This increases operating efficiency and adds to the already enviable safety record of railway transport.

Great strides in modernization have been made in the marshalling of trains in CN's string of new, automatic electronic freight-classification yards in Moncton, Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg. Significant improvements in the utilization of freight cars and diesel engines have also become possible with the introduction of a new, computerized information system to assist in freight-car distribution, and with the centralization of motive-power control in Montreal.

The computer has played a very large role in CN's modernization programme. Through a variety of computer techniques, system schedules have been improved and decisions have been made to introduce new trains and equipment.

Variety of Services

Canadian National is a rail-centred transportation company, moving goods, people and messages in a variety of ways.