

# THE HISTORY AND ECONOMICS OF TRANSPORT

## INTRODUCTION

### METHODS OF TRANSPORT AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT

#### CHAPTER I

##### THE LAND OR THE WATER ROUTE

EVER since trade and commerce necessitated the transport of goods the same problem has confronted the trader. With improved methods and greater knowledge of forces giving increased power over physical conditions, the terms of the problem have been modified. But the primitive trader of many centuries ago debated the same questions as does the twentieth century merchant in the Midlands to-day: Shall I send my goods by land or by water? By the land road or the water road; by the wagon on the turnpike, or by the barge on the canal; by the railway, or by an improved canal method—these under different forms are practically the same question, which has demanded an answer from the trader of antiquity, the eighteenth century factor, and the captain of industry to-day.

**Land and Water  
Route.**

Nor is this question, which to the superficial observer appears so simple, easy to answer. The closer one looks into the subject the greater do its possibilities and complexities grow. When the primitive trader had a few goods to transport a few miles he might, or might not, have the choice of routes. If, however, he lived on the banks of a river, or lake, or by the sea, he enjoyed the advantage of the choice. If, for instance, one were to imagine a trader living on the side of a lake and having some goods to send to a settlement 10 miles distant, yet close

**Nature of the  
Problem.**