

**THE RAILROAD BUILDERS:
A CHRONICLE OF THE
WELDING OF THE STATES**

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The railroad builders: a chronicle of the welding of the states by John Moody

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JOHN MOODY

**THE RAILROAD BUILDERS:
A CHRONICLE OF THE
WELDING OF THE STATES**

TEXTBOOK EDITION

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**THE CHRONICLES
OF AMERICA SERIES**

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THE RAILROAD BUILDERS

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WELDING OF THE STATES
BY JOHN MOODY



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THE RAILROAD BUILDERS

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CHAPTER I

A CENTURY OF RAILROAD BUILDING

THE United States as we know it today is largely the result of mechanical inventions, and in particular of agricultural machinery and the railroad. One transformed millions of acres of uncultivated land into fertile farms, while the other furnished the transportation which carried the crops to distant markets. Before these inventions appeared, it is true, Americans had crossed the Alleghanies, reached the Mississippi Valley, and had even penetrated to the Pacific coast; thus in a thousand years or so the United States might conceivably have become a far-reaching, straggling, loosely jointed Roman Empire, depending entirely upon its oceans, internal watercourses, and imperial highways for such economic and political integrity as it might