

37.—Statistical Summary of Civil Aviation in Canada, 1922-1924.

Items.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Firms manufacturing aircraft.....	1	2	3
Firms chiefly operating aircraft.....	23	15	8
Firms using aircraft as auxiliary service.....	1	1	2
Aircraft-flights made.....	4,415	3,086	3,776
Aircraft-hours flown.....	2,541	2,831	4,389
Approximate aeroplane mileage.....	106,353	47,505	21,700
Approximate seaplane mileage.....	52,420	119,168	263,288
Approximate amphibian mileage.....	26,458	21,425	9,790
Total aircraft mileage.....	185,211	188,098	294,778
Average flight duration (minutes).....	35	55	70
Number of pilots carried.....	4,415	3,086	3,776
Number of passengers and crew carried.....	4,282	2,238	5,314
Total personnel carried.....	8,697	5,324	9,090
Pilots carried one mile (pilot miles).....	185,211	188,098	294,778
Passengers and crew carried 1 mile (passenger-miles).....	184,928	203,500	560,175
Total personnel carried 1 mile (personnel-miles).....	370,139	391,598	854,953
Total freight or express carried (lbs.).....	14,681	17,600	77,385
Total mail carried (lbs.).....	62,025	-	1,221
Total licensed civil airharbours (all types).....	30	31	24
Total licensed civil aircraft (all types).....	60	69	32
Total licensed personnel.....	164	230	201

Military Aviation.—Military aviation is divided into two parts:—(1) civil operations for other Departments of the Dominion Government and for Provincial Governments: (2) Air Force training—both being carried out by the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Civil operations include forest fire patrol and sketch mapping, aerial surveys, fishery protection and transportation in the remoter parts of the country. For this work there are operational stations at Vancouver, B.C., High River, Alta., Victoria Beach, Man. and Dartmouth, N.S.

Air Force training is carried out at Camp Borden, Ont., and experimental work at Ottawa, Ont.

Details of the organization of the Royal Canadian Air Force and amounts called for in the estimates will be found in the Administration section of this Year Book.

VIII.—CANALS.

Before the period of extensive railway construction which commenced for Canada in the 1850's, the water routes, more especially the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes and the Ottawa, were the chief avenues of transportation. These routes were interrupted at certain points, necessitating portages. The canals of Canada were constructed to eliminate the toil of unloading, transporting and reloading at the portages.

The earliest mention of canals in Canada is in connection with the Lachine canal, begun by early French settlers in 1700, but only after the conquest of Canada by the British were improvements of the main water routes made, and in the early part of the 19th century increased internal and foreign trade and the introduction of steam navigation resulted in more attention being given to this work. Although the canals were constructed primarily for military purposes, they soon became essential to the commercial life of the country.