

37.—Statistical Summary of Civil Aviation in Canada, 1923-1927.

Items.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Firms manufacturing aircraft.....	2	3	2	2	2
Firms chiefly operating aircraft.....	15	8	8	14	20
Firms using aircraft as auxiliary service.....	1	2	2	2	1
Aircraft flights made.....	3,086	3,776	3,171	4,755	16,748
Aircraft hours flown.....	2,831	4,389	4,091	5,860	12,070
Approximate aeroplane mileage.....	47,505	21,700	29,065	30,290	209,583
Approximate float seaplane mileage.....	119,168	263,288	218,686	356,481	247,238
Approximate boat seaplane mileage.....	-	-	-	-	372,189
Approximate amphibian mileage.....	21,425	9,790	8,075	6,332	-
Total aircraft mileage.....	188,098	294,778	255,826	393,103	829,010
Average flight duration (minutes).....	55	70	77	74	43
Number of pilots carried.....	3,086	3,776	3,171	4,755	16,748
Number of passengers and crew carried.....	2,238	5,314	4,897	6,436	18,932
Total personnel carried.....	5,324	9,090	8,068	11,191	35,680
Pilots carried one mile (pilot miles).....	188,098	294,778	255,826	393,103	829,010
Passengers and crew carried 1 mile (passenger-miles).....	203,500	560,175	446,848	631,715	1,424,631
Total personnel carried 1 mile (personnel-miles).....	391,598	854,953	702,474	1,024,818	2,253,641
Total freight or express carried (lb.).....	17,600	77,385	592,220	724,721	1,098,346
Total mail carried (lb.).....	-	1,221	1,080	3,980	14,684
Total licensed civil air harbours (all types).....	31	24	34	34	35
Total licensed civil aircraft (all types).....	69	32	39	44	67
Total licensed personnel.....	230	201	91	103	148

Military Aviation.—The Royal Canadian Air Force is responsible for all matters connected with the air defence of Canada, and consists of a headquarters at Ottawa, for administration, intelligence and organization purposes; a land training base at Camp Borden, Ont., and a seaplane training base at Vancouver, B.C. The present strength of the Air Force is 107 officers and 455 men. (See also "Royal Canadian Air Force", in the Administration section.)

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 re-loading 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.

1.—Canal Systems.

There are in Canada six canal systems under the control of the Dominion Government in connection with navigable lakes and rivers. They consist of the canals (1) between Port Arthur or Fort William and Montreal; (2) from Montreal to the international boundary near lake Champlain; (3) from Montreal to Ottawa; (4) from Ottawa to Kingston and Perth; (5) from Trenton, lake Ontario, to lake