

The R.C.A.F. Station, Camp Borden, provides training for officers and airmen of the permanent and non-permanent personnels of the R.C.A.F., and also summer training for provisional pilot officers. Training is also provided, and trained personnel supplied, to the Civil Division of the Air Services. The training covers flying and ground subjects, co-operation with military services, and such other courses of instruction as may be necessary.

The R.C.A.F. Station, Vancouver, provides a seaplane training base for the Royal Canadian Air Force, as the R.C.A.F. Station, Camp Borden, only provides training on land machines.

The strength of the Permanent Royal Canadian Air Force, as at Dec. 31, 1929, was 90 officers and 684 other ranks.

(b) Civil.

To meet the growing needs of civil aviation, the following three branches were organized, under the Deputy Minister:—

Civil Government Air Operations.—This Branch is charged with the carrying out of all air operations required by any Dominion Government Service, including the forest protection, survey and other miscellaneous work now carried out for the Departments of the Interior, Mines, Agriculture, Indian Affairs, National Revenue, Public Works, Railways and Canals, Marine and Fisheries, etc. The headquarters of the Branch is at Ottawa, and its operating bases are as follows:—High River, Alta.; Winnipeg, Man. Sub-bases and detachments are at Lac du Bonnet, Man.; Berens River, Man.; Norway House, Man.; Cormorant Lake, Man.; Winnipegosis, Man.; Ladder Lake (Big River), Sask.; Lac la Ronge, Sask.; Ottawa, Ont.; Dartmouth, N.S. Eleven mobile photographic detachments undertake aerial photography in all provinces.

The central stores and workshops for the Civil Division are administered as a part of this Branch. These are located at Victoria island, Ottawa.

Control of Civil Aviation.—The duties of this Branch include the inspection, licensing and registration of aircraft, airharbours, commercial and private air pilots, air engineers and air navigators. In addition to these duties, the location and construction of air routes and matters connected with airship services are administered in this Branch.

Civil aviation in the Dominion has had its chief development in connection with the exploration and conservation of the natural resources of the various provinces including forest protection, aerial photography and the transport of men and supplies to remote points and mining districts. Nineteen regular air mail routes are now in operation.

On Dec. 31, 1929, there were in force certificates and licences as follows:—private air pilots, 341; commercial air pilots, 334; air engineers, 305; registration of aircraft, 409; airharbour licences, 68. (See also "Air Navigation", pp. 659-661, in the chapter on Transportation and Communications.)

Aeronautical Engineering.—This Branch undertakes the technical duties for both Military and Civil Divisions. The Chief Aeronautical Engineer acts as Consulting Engineer to the Department of National Defence, and is responsible for all questions of design, airworthiness of aircraft, equipment, works and buildings, and other similar technical duties.