

Subsection 1.—Roads and Highways.

Historical.—A brief description of the early colonization roads in Canada was given at p. 733 of the 1934-35 Year Book.

Recent Highway Development.—With the rapid increase in the percentage of motor-car owners to the population (see pp. 668-669) the demand for improved roads has become more and more insistent since the War. Furthermore, the advantages to be gained by attracting touring motorists have been a powerful incentive to governing bodies to improve trunk roads and scenic highways within their jurisdictions. One sphere where the motor car has been of special economic advantage has been in rural areas, where its speed and economy are a great improvement over the old horse-drawn vehicle. As a result, in the Census of 1931 every second farm reported a farm-owned motor vehicle (1.96 farms per farm-owned motor vehicle). This widespread rural ownership of automobiles has resulted in the improvement of secondary rural roads.

A table of road mileage in Canada follows. For the first time an effort was made to collect statistics of urban streets and roadways for 1935. Preliminary figures of these urban roads give a total of 10,960.5 miles of which 3,564.8 miles were in Ontario. However, since there will inevitably be some revision of these urban mileages later, they are not included in the following table. The rural roads average about one mile of road for each 10 rural inhabitants or for each 26 persons, both rural and urban. There are great stretches of country in the northern portions of Quebec, Ontario, the Prairie Provinces, and British Columbia with very few people and very few roads, but the southern portions are well supplied. The Trans-Canada highway is now under construction, running from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans entirely in Canadian territory.

1.—Classification of Canadian Highways, by Provinces, 1935.

Province.	Year Ended.	Earth.	Gravel and Stone.	Water-Bound Macadam.	Cement Concrete.	Bituminous Macadam.	Bituminous Concrete.	Asphalt.	Total.
		miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.
P.E. Island.....	Dec. 31, 1935	3,440	195	—	4	—	12	—	3,651
Nova Scotia.....	Nov. 30, 1935	10,584	4,043	—	—	31	167	—	14,825
New Brunswick..	Oct. 31, 1935	4,663	6,804	—	—	12	135	—	11,614
Quebec.....	June 30, 1935	17,663	14,823	1,278	149	205	881	—	34,999
Ontario.....	Dec. 31, 1935	21,361	43,668	220	1,739	941	1,303	25	69,257
Manitoba.....	April 30, 1936	29,999	4,292	—	25	—	22	394	34,732
Saskatchewan...	Mar. 31, 1936	153,215	2,469	—	—	—	70	—	155,754
Alberta.....	" "	60,275	2,498	—	—	70	—	4	62,847
British Columbia	" "	13,205	9,204	41	80	174	356	69	23,129
Totals.....		314,405	87,996	1,539	1,997	1,433	2,946	492	410,808

Subsection 2.—Motor Vehicles.

Registration.—The increase in the use of motor vehicles in Canada has been very rapid; this is shown by the statistics of Table 2. In Table 3 the numbers of motor vehicles registered in 1934 and 1935 are given by provinces, classified as passenger cars, commercial cars or trucks, motor buses, and motor cycles.