

In 1932, the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Act, 1932, was passed and under its terms control of all radio broadcasting was vested in the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission. This Act was subsequently repealed and replaced by the Canadian Broadcasting Act, 1936. Under the new Act, the technical control of all broadcasting stations reverted to the Department of Transport, while the regulation of programs was placed in the hands of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. It contains a section which empowers the Minister of Transport to make regulations for the control of any equipment liable to cause interference with radio reception.

Accordingly, authority for the administration of all radio within the jurisdiction of Canada is vested in the Minister of Transport under the following legislation: The Radio Act, 1938; The Canada Shipping Act, 1934; The Canadian Broadcasting Act, 1936.

Section 1.—Administration.

Subsection 1.—Technical Control and Licensing.

All radio stations within the Dominion of Canada are required to be licensed, whether used for transmission or reception, or both. The issuance of all classes of licences, the assignment of call signs and frequencies, and the inspection and monitoring of radio stations in Canada is carried out by the personnel of the Radio Division. This latter and the Civil Aviation and Meteorological Divisions form the Air Services Branch of the Department of Transport.

In addition to being subject to the provisions of the Radio Act, 1938, and the regulations issued thereunder, the operation of radio, including broadcasting, in Canada is subject to the International Telecommunication Convention (Madrid, 1932) and the Radiocommunication Regulations issued thereunder (Revision of Cairo, 1938), as well as to those of the Inter-American Radio Conference, Havana, 1937.

The Radio Regulations for ship stations issued under the Canada Shipping Act, 1934, lay down the specifications of radio equipment to be carried on certain classes of vessels, and also designate the qualifications of the operators required to be carried thereon.

To ensure the safety of life at sea, certain passenger steamers and cargo vessels, by international regulation, must carry radio equipment manned by competent operators holding certificates of proficiency in radio. The Department maintains a complete radio inspection service to enforce this regulation. Inspectors, located at major ports throughout the Dominion, are responsible for checking the efficiency of the radio equipment on ships calling at Canadian ports, regardless of their nationality, and seeing that only competent operators are carried. Under the Safety of Life at Sea and Load Line Conventions Act, 1931, ships of foreign and Canadian registry, while in Canadian ports, are surveyed with a view to the issuance of safety certificates. Seventy-six thousand and thirty-one radio stations of all classes were inspected by departmental radio inspectors during the year.

Examinations for certificates of proficiency in radio are also conducted by the inspection staff of the Radio Division. Certificates of all classes to the number of 7,764 were issued up to Mar. 31, 1938. Table 1 shows the total radio stations in operation as at Mar. 31, 1934-38, by classes. The vast majority of these are, of course, private receiving stations, and the distribution of the latter, by provinces, is shown in Table 2.