

**The Panama Canal.\***—The Panama Canal, which was opened to commercial traffic on Aug. 15, 1914, has been a waterway of great importance to British Columbian ports, from which vessels leave direct for British and European ports throughout the year. As an alternative route to that of the transcontinental railway lines, such a passage by water is of vital importance in the solution of the larger transportation problems of the continent, and while its influence is perhaps more potential than actual, such a check on transcontinental rail rates is a valuable one. During the First World War the great expectations based upon the opening of the Canal were not realized, owing to the scarcity of shipping, but, with the post-war decline in ocean freight rates, an increase in traffic between Canada's Pacific ports and Europe took place, and, while the proportion carried in vessels of Canadian registry was comparatively small, the cargo tonnage nevertheless assumed considerable proportions. The outbreak of war in September, 1939, has again reduced the supply of shipping for the ordinary commerce of the nations involved. It is probable that under these circumstances transcontinental rail transportation has been substituted in Canada for some of the traffic formerly passing through the Panama Canal.

\* Revised and figures supplied by courtesy of the Governor of the Panama Canal Zone.

**24.—Traffic to and from the East and West Coasts of Canada via the Panama Canal, Years Ended June 30, 1929-41**

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1921 to 1928 are given at p. 707 of the 1938 Year Book.

Year	Originating on—		Destined for—	
	West Coast	East Coast	West Coast	East Coast
	long tons	long tons	long tons	long tons
1929	2,650,646	221,128	266,433	539,767
1930	1,968,966	185,776	267,282	556,562
1931	2,307,257	137,756	271,621	492,532
1932	2,383,211	89,443	167,855	529,317
1933	2,896,162	121,875	134,511	328,038
1934	2,201,180	196,204	189,227	498,706
1935	2,490,203	248,658	176,698	547,974
1936	2,705,567	298,884	223,174	506,673
1937	2,780,243	379,783	240,221	589,011
1938	1,962,220	391,906	213,781	398,710
1939	2,873,452	348,410	163,526	296,881
1940	2,272,450	313,118	185,540	108,648
1941	1	1	1	1

<sup>1</sup> War-time restrictions preclude the publication of data for 1941.

**25.—Commercial Traffic through the Panama Canal, Years Ended June 30, 1929-41**

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1915 to 1928 are given at p. 708 of the 1938 Year Book.

Year	Atlantic to Pacific		Pacific to Atlantic		Totals	
	Vessels	Cargo Tonnage	Vessels	Cargo Tonnage	Vessels	Cargo Tonnage
	No.	long tons	No.	long tons	No.	long tons
1929	3,279	9,873,529	3,010	20,774,239	6,289	30,647,768
1930	3,051	9,472,061	2,976	20,546,368	6,027	30,018,429
1931	2,717	6,670,718	2,653	18,394,565	5,370	25,065,283
1932	2,273	5,631,717	2,089	14,167,269	4,362	19,798,986
1933	2,184	4,507,070	1,978	13,654,095	4,162	18,161,165
1934	2,753	6,162,649	2,481	18,541,360	5,234	24,704,009
1935	2,676	7,529,721	2,504	17,779,806	5,180	25,309,527
1936	2,770	8,249,899	2,612	18,256,044	5,382	26,505,943
1937	2,865	9,895,632	2,522	18,212,743	5,387	28,108,375
1938	2,946	9,688,560	2,578	17,697,364	5,524	27,385,924
1939	3,146	9,011,267	2,757	18,855,360	5,903	27,866,627
1940	2,763	9,819,600	2,607	17,479,416	5,370	27,299,016
1941	1	1	1	1	1	1

<sup>1</sup> War-time restrictions preclude the publication of data for 1941.