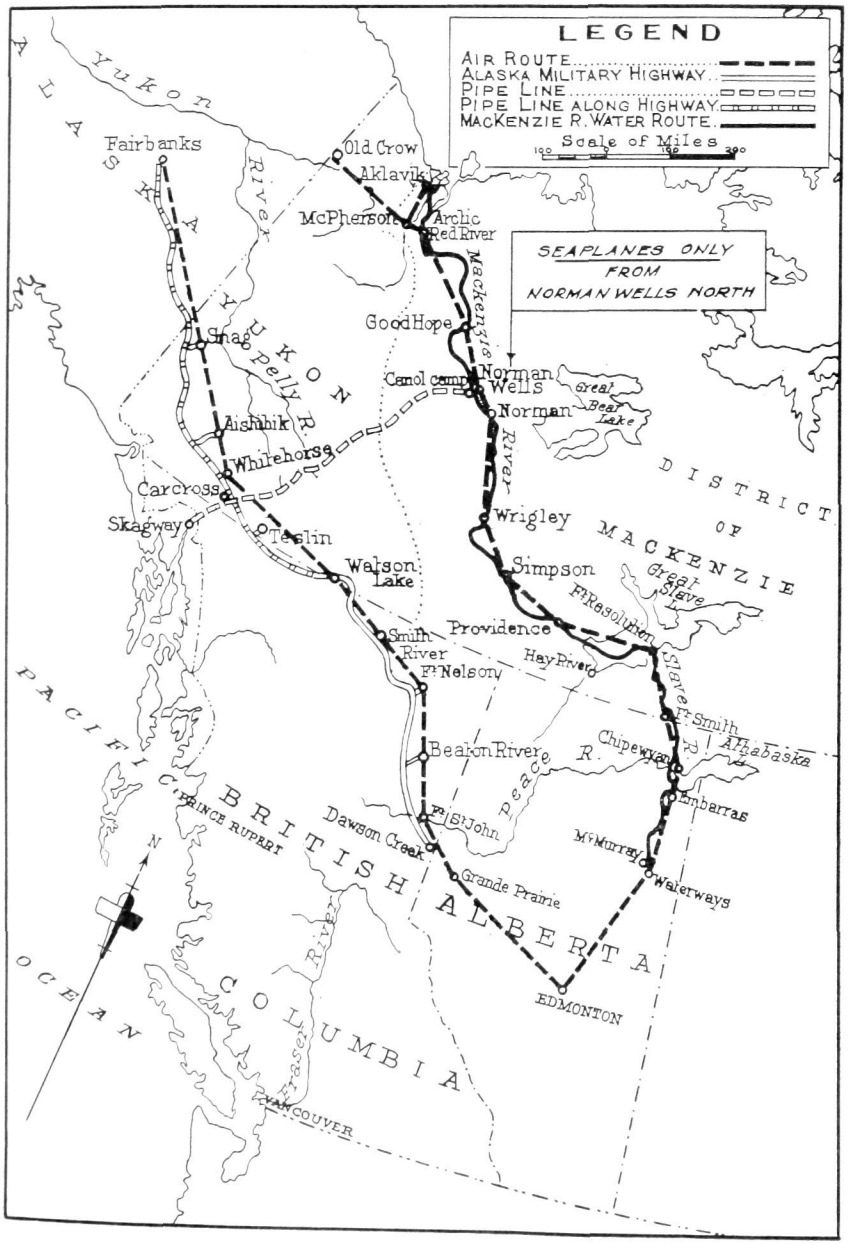THE NORTHWEST STAGING ROUTE