

## Section 1.—Provincial Motor-Vehicle and Traffic Regulations†

NOTE.—In this Section, it is obviously impossible to include the great mass of detailed regulations in force in each province. The purpose in view is to provide only the more important general information. The sources of information for detailed regulations for specific provinces are given at pp. 678-679.

**General.**—The licensing of motor-vehicles and the regulation of motor-vehicle traffic lies within the legislative jurisdiction of the Provincial Governments in Canada. Regulations that are common to all the provinces are summarized here:—

*Operator's Licences.*—The operator of a motor-vehicle must be over a specified age (usually 16 years) and must carry a licence, obtainable only after prescribed qualification tests and renewable annually. Special licences are required for chauffeurs and, in some cases, for those granted licences who have not reached the specified age.

*Motor-Vehicle Regulations.*—In general, all motor-vehicles and trailers must be registered annually, with the payment of specified fees, and must carry two registration plates, one on the front and one on the back of the vehicle (one only for the back, in the case of trailers). In order to conserve metal for war purposes, most of the provinces and both territories have issued only one licence plate for each vehicle in recent years. A change of ownership of the vehicle must be recorded with the registration authority. However, exception from registration is granted for a specified period (usually at least 90 days) in any year to visiting private vehicles registered in another province or a State that grants reciprocal treatment. Further regulations require a safe standard of efficiency in the mechanism of the vehicle and of its brakes, and provide that equipment include non-glare headlights, a proper rear light, a satisfactory locking device, a muffler, a windshield wiper, and a rear-vision mirror.

*Traffic Regulations.*—In all provinces, vehicles keep to the right-hand side of the road. Everywhere motorists are required to observe traffic signs, lights, etc., placed at strategic points on highways and roads. Speed limits, usually of 50 miles per hour, are in effect; slower speeds are always required in cities, towns and villages, in passing schools and public playgrounds, at road intersections, railway crossings, or at other places or times where the view of the highway for a safe distance ahead is in any way obscured. Motor-vehicles must not pass a street car that has stopped to take on or discharge passengers except where safety zones are provided. Accidents resulting in personal injury or property damage must be reported to a provincial or municipal police officer and any driver involved must not leave the scene of accident until he has rendered all possible aid and disclosed his name to the injured party.

*Penalties.*—These ascend in scale from small fines for minor infractions of any of the regulations to a suspension of the operator's driving permit, impounding of the car, or imprisonment for serious infractions, recklessness, driving without an operator's licence, and especially for attempting, while intoxicated, to operate a motor-vehicle.

There is such a wide variation in the different provinces regarding the basis of licences and fees, the regulation of public commercial vehicles, details of traffic rules, speed, and the use of motor-vehicles, that it is impossible even to outline them satisfactorily in the space available here. For the most important features see the annual bulletin published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

† The information in this Section has been revised from material provided by the officials in charge of the administration of motor-vehicle and traffic Acts and Regulations in the individual provinces.