

The Royal Commission on Transportation.—The Royal Commission on Transportation was established by Order in Council P.C. 6033 dated Dec. 29, 1948. The terms of reference of the Commission are briefly:—

- (1) To review and report upon the effect of economic, geographic or other disadvantages under which certain sections of Canada find themselves in relation to the various transportation services therein.
- (2) To review the Railway Act with respect to such matters as guidance to the Board in general freight-rate revisions, competitive rates, international rates, etc.
- (3) To review the capital structure of the Canadian National Railway Company and report on the advisability of establishing and maintaining the fixed charges of that Company on a basis comparable to other major railways in North America.
- (4) To review the present-day accounting methods and statistical procedure of railways in Canada, and report upon the advisability of adopting measures conducive to uniformity.
- (5) To review and report on the results achieved under the Canadian National-Canadian Pacific Act, 1933, and amendments thereto.

The Commission held regional hearings beginning June 1, 1949, and terminating Sept. 29, 1949, at the cities of Winnipeg, Man., Regina, Sask., Calgary and Edmonton, Alta., Victoria and Vancouver, B.C., Halifax, N.S., Fredericton, N.B., Charlottetown, P.E.I., Quebec City and Montreal, Que., Toronto, Ont., and St. John's, Nfld. Hearings were also held at Ottawa, Ont., from Nov. 1, to Dec. 16, 1949, and from Feb. 6 to May 31, 1950.

All the provinces, except Ontario and Quebec, submitted representations before the Commission either at the regional or Ottawa hearings. The railways and railway associations, and public bodies and private companies also appeared before the Commission. A list of those appearing before the Commission can be obtained from the Secretary of the Commission if required.

The report of the Commission is expected to be ready for presentation to Parliament early in 1951.

Section 2.—Government Control Over Agencies of Communication*

The development and control of radio-communication in Canada from the beginning of the century is outlined at pp. 644-646 of the 1945 Year Book.

The present phase of national radio broadcasting in Canada was entered upon in 1936, when, with the passage of the Canadian Broadcasting Act, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation replaced the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission (see p. 808). The new Act gave the Corporation much wider powers in the operation of the system, and was modelled very largely along the lines of the Act governing the British Broadcasting Corporation. The technical control of all broadcasting stations reverted to the Minister of Transport, who was also empowered to make regulations for the control of any equipment liable to cause interference with radio reception.

Under the Radio Act, 1938, radio stations, including broadcasting stations, may be established only under, and in accordance with, licences granted by the Minister of Transport and, with the exception of those matters covered by the Canadian Broadcasting Act, 1936, radio-communications are regulated under the Radio Act, 1938, and Regulations. Licences for radio stations may be issued only to British subjects or to companies or corporations created or incorporated under the laws of Canada or any of the provinces thereof or any country of the Commonwealth.

* Revised under direction of G. C. W. Browne, Controller, Radio Division, Department of Transport, Ottawa.