

PART VIII.—RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

In the 1945 Year Book, pp. 644-646, an outline is given of the development of administrative control over radio-communication in Canada. See also p. 784 of this volume.

Section 1.—Administration*

The administration and regulation of radio-communication in Canada is carried out by the Telecommunications Division of the Department of Transport. The radio activities of the Division may be summarized as follows: (1) the administration of national and international radio laws and regulations and of regional agreements, involving the issuance of radio licences, inspection of radio stations, certification of radio equipment, examination of operators, allocation and monitoring of frequencies, compilation and settling of international accounts for radio messages, investigation and suppression of inductive interference to radio reception; and (2) construction, maintenance and operation of radio-communication stations and of radio aids to marine and air navigation.

National and international radio laws and regulations include: the Canadian Broadcasting Act, 1936, the Radio Act, 1938, and Regulations made thereunder; the International Telecommunication Convention and Radio Regulations annexed thereto; the Inter-American Radiocommunications Convention; the Inter-American Arrangement Concerning Radiocommunications; the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement; those Articles of the International Civil Aviation Convention applicable to aeronautical radio requirements; the Canada Shipping Act, 1934, and Radio Regulations for Ship Stations issued thereunder, and that part of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea applicable to radio requirements for ships.

Licensing and Operation.—In all branches of radio, basic control is exercised over the right to establish a station, assignment of frequencies, operator standards, operating procedure, and general regulations concerning the manner in which radio stations are used.

Under the Broadcasting Act, 1936, applications for licences to establish broadcasting stations, or for modification of existing stations, are referred to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for its recommendations to the Minister of Transport before being dealt with by the Department of Transport. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation also controls the linking-up of stations that form networks and, in addition, the character of programs being broadcast. With these exceptions, the control of broadcasting stations is carried out by the Telecommunications Division of the Department of Transport.

The standard broadcast band is crowded with stations that are capable of interfering with one another over the entire North American region, particularly at night. A plan for the accommodation of the largest number of stations with the least interference was evolved as a result of extensive studies conducted by Canada, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Bahama Islands, Mexico and the United States and was embodied in the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement.

* Revised in the Department of Transport, Ottawa.