

The Trans-Canada Highway System.—An outline of the Agreement on, and specifications and construction of, the federal-provincial Trans-Canada Highway and a map showing the proposed route in the provinces participating is given in the 1951 Year Book, pp. 631-634. The road will be a hard-surfaced two-lane highway 22 to 24 ft. in width with ample shoulder widths, bridge clearances and sight distances, low gradients and curvature, and a load-bearing capacity of nine tons for one axle. Railway grade-crossings will be eliminated wherever possible.

The 1954 estimated mileage for the eight provinces originally entering into this Agreement with the Federal Government in 1950, and for Nova Scotia which entered in 1952, gave the Highway a length of 4,580 miles, divided as follows: Newfoundland, 610 miles; Prince Edward Island, 74; Nova Scotia, 310; New Brunswick, 388; Ontario, 1,412; Manitoba, 305; Saskatchewan, 414; Alberta, 292; British Columbia, 692; and the National Parks, 83.

Contractual commitments for the nine participating provinces with respect to new construction on the Highway during the period Dec. 9, 1949, to Mar. 31, 1954, amounted to \$142,530,857 of which the Federal Government's share was 50 p.c., or \$71,265,428. Federal payments to the provinces during this period for prior, interim and new construction totalled \$47,328,069. On-site labour expended on the Highway up to Mar. 31, 1954, amounted to 2,721,580 eight-hour man-days of employment; off-site employment required for the provision of necessary materials and services is estimated at 4,627,000 man-days.

The Highway through the National Parks is being constructed with Federal Government funds and the amount of \$2,000,000 was allotted by Parliament for that purpose for the year ended Mar. 31, 1955.

By June 1954, contracts for 1,483 miles of grading had been approved and the equivalent of 1,250 miles built, contracts for base-course and paving had been approved for 978 miles and the equivalent of 806 miles has been completed, and 83 bridges, over-passes and other structures having over 20-foot spans, had been completed.

Section 3.—Motor-Vehicles

Registration.—Automobiles were registered in Canada for the first time in 1904. Ontario was the only province to issue licences in that year. New Brunswick began registering cars in 1905; Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1906; British Columbia in 1907; Manitoba in 1908; Nova Scotia in 1909; Prince Edward Island in 1913; and Yukon Territory in 1914.

In 1905, only 565 motor-vehicles were registered in Canada but by 1915 the number had risen to 95,284 and by the end of the next decade to 724,048. With the exception of 1931-33, an annual increase was in evidence until 1941 when 1,572,784 motor-vehicles were registered. The number of commercial vehicles continued to increase during the war years but a considerable decline was shown in passenger cars owing to restrictions on manufacture and the rationing of tires