

PART III.—ROAD TRANSPORT*

Highways and motor vehicles are herein treated as related features of transportation. An introductory section summarizes provincial regulations regarding motor vehicles and motor traffic.

Section 1.—Provincial Motor Vehicle and Traffic Regulations†

NOTE.—It is obviously impossible to include here the great mass of detailed regulations in force in each province and territory; only the more important general information is given. The sources of information for detailed regulations for specific provinces and territories are given at pp. 832-833.

The registration of motor vehicles and the regulation of motor vehicle traffic lies within the legislative jurisdiction of the provincial and territorial governments. Regulations common to all provinces and territories are summarized under the following headings.

Operators' Licences.—The operator of a motor vehicle must be over a specified age, usually 16 years (17 in Newfoundland and Quebec, and 18 in Alberta), and must carry a licence, obtainable in most provinces only after prescribed qualification tests and renewable annually, except in Alberta and British Columbia where they are renewable every five years. Special licences are required for chauffeurs in all provinces except Newfoundland and in some jurisdictions special licences may be granted to those 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 of trailers). In most provinces in event of sale the registration plates stay with the car but in Manitoba and Saskatchewan the plates are retained by the owner. 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 except in Quebec where the maximum is 90 days and British Columbia where it is six months) in any year to visitors' private vehicles registered in another Province or a State that grants reciprocal treatment. Regulations require a safe standard of efficiency in the mechanism of the vehicle and of its brakes and stipulate 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 and territories, 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. The speed limit in most provinces is 50 miles an hour except in Quebec where it is 60, in Manitoba and Alberta where it is 60 in daytime and 50 at night, and in Nova Scotia where the limit is a "reasonable and prudent" speed (of about 40). Slower speeds are always required in cities, towns and villages, when 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. In almost all provinces truck speed limits are at least five miles an hour below automobile speed limits. Motor vehicles must not pass a street car that has stopped to take on or discharge passengers except where safety zones are provided. In most provinces accidents resulting in personal injury or property damage of \$100 or more must be reported to a provincial or municipal police officer and a driver involved must not leave the scene of an accident until he has rendered all possible aid and disclosed his name to the injured party.

* Except as otherwise indicated, the material in this Part has been revised in the Public Finance and Transportation Division, 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 and territories.