

Contractual commitments of the nine participating provinces for new construction on the Highway during the period Dec. 9, 1949, to July 15, 1957, amounted to \$345,625,243 of which the Federal Government's share, including the additional 40 p.c. under the amended Act, was \$189,317,814. Federal payments to the provinces during this period for prior, interim and new construction totalled \$109,431,701. On-site labour expended on the Highway up to Mar. 31, 1957, amounted to 5,196,607 eight-hour man-days of employment; off-site employment required for the provision of necessary material and services was estimated at 8,834,232 man-days.

In Saskatchewan, work was completed over the whole route of 406 miles, and the Highway opened and dedicated at a ceremony on Aug. 21, 1957. In provinces more handicapped by problems of terrain and construction, progress continues to be made and the work is well up to schedule. At May 31, 1957, contracts for 2,488 miles of grading had been approved and the equivalent of 2,154 miles built, contracts for base-course had been approved for 2,131 miles and the equivalent of 1,761 miles completed; paving to specified standard had been completed over a distance of 1,559 miles; 261 bridges, overpasses and other structures of over 20-foot span had been completed.

Urban Roads.*—Information on urban roads is obtained from municipalities with populations of over 1,000. The number of such cities and towns reporting in 1956 was well over twice the number reporting in 1954 (317) and the data secured was much more comprehensive.

3.—Statistics of Urban Roads, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1955 and 1956

Item	1955	1956
Municipalities Reporting No.	794	799
Total Expenditure Reported \$	87,909,902	106,117,610
New construction.....	36,423,626	45,543,596
Reconstruction, repair, cleaning, sanding and snow removal.....	51,486,276	60,574,014
Total Urban Mileage No.	22,027	22,833
Rigid paving.....	5,796	6,049
Flexible pavement.....	3,347	3,239
Untreated gravel or earth.....	12,884	13,535

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 because of the restrictions on manufacture and the rationing of tires and gasoline. However postwar recovery was rapid and registrations have risen steadily to a 1956 total of 4,230,647, including 3,187,099 passenger cars and taxis, 995,723 trucks and miscellaneous vehicles, 12,245 buses and 35,580 motorcycles.

* Statistics are given in more detail in DBS annual report *Highway Statistics*.