

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 source of information for detailed regulations for each province and territory is given at p. 780.

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 as follows.

Operators' Licences.—The operator of a motor vehicle must be over a specified age, usually 16 years (17 in Newfoundland and Quebec, and 18 for class A licence 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 it is renewable every five years, and in New Brunswick and Manitoba where it is renewable every two 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), with the exception that Alberta does not require the licensing of trailers used for personal purposes. In most provinces, in event of sale the registration plates stay with the vehicle but in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the plates are retained by the owner. In Nova Scotia vehicles pass from owner to owner by due process of law and title must be secured before issue of plates and permit. 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 in British Columbia and Ontario 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 muffler, a windshield wiper, a rear-vision mirror, and a warning device.

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 Quebec and New Brunswick is 60 miles an hour in daytime and 55 at night; in Manitoba and Alberta it is 60 in daytime and 50 at night, with the exception of a few selected sections of four-lane highways in Alberta where maximum speeds are 65 in daytime and 55 at night. In Nova Scotia the limit is a "reasonable and prudent" speed, with a maximum of 60 miles an hour. In Ontario maximum speeds vary from 50 to 60 miles an hour, depending on type of highway. In the other provinces the maximum speed permitted is normally 50 miles an hour. 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. In all provinces and territories, accidents resulting in personal injury or property

* Except as otherwise indicated, the material in this Part has been revised in the Transportation Section, Public Finance and Transportation Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.