

## (H) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND AGREEMENTS

### 1. RATIFICATION OF THE CANADA-URUGUAY TRADE AGREEMENT

Ratifications of the Canada-Uruguay Trade Agreement, signed at Ottawa on the 12th of August, 1936, were exchanged at Montevideo on the 15th of April, 1940. The Agreement came into force thirty days after the date of ratification.

### 2. BRITISH COLUMBIA YUKON-ALASKA HIGHWAY COMMISSION, OFFICIAL STATEMENT, 10th OF MAY

The Prime Minister's Office announced to-day that the Canadian Commission appointed to consider the problems involved in the proposal to construct a highway through British Columbia and the Yukon to Alaska have submitted a Preliminary Report to the Government.

The present Report makes it clear that the Commission is not yet in a position to give an accurate estimate of probable costs. Nor has it come to any conclusion as to the recommendations which it will ultimately make in regard to the proposal that such a road should be constructed.

Hon. Charles Stewart is Chairman of the Canadian Commission. Associated with him are Brigadier-General Thomas L. Tremblay of Quebec; J. M. Wardle, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa; Arthur Dixon, Deputy Minister of Public Works of British Columbia, and J. W. Spencer of Victoria.

The Report considers in detail the technical problems involved, both in extending sections of existing highway and in new construction of links from Prince George or Hazelton through northern British Columbia to the Yukon Boundary, thence through the Yukon Territory, and in Alaska by way of the Richardson Highway to Fairbanks. Of the existing highways included in the Commission's survey, the oldest section is the celebrated Cariboo Road, running from Ashcroft to Barkerville, which was constructed by Governor Sir James Douglas, with the initial aid of a detachment of Royal Engineers, between 1862 and 1865. Between Vancouver and Ashcroft the present highway now forms a part of the Trans-Canada highway. The terminal sections, from the international boundary to Vancouver, and from Prince George to Hazelton, are already incorporated in the highway system of British Columbia.

The Preliminary Report describes two main routes, as well as several alternatives, for a highway leading north from Prince George or Hazelton. Of these, the "A" route would link Hazelton to Atlin and the Yukon boundary. The "B" route would follow the Parsnip and Finlay valleys to the Liard River and Frances Lake. At the moment air reconnaissance