

# AIRMAIL BULLETIN

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Friday, June 17, 1949.

**10,500,000-Acre Oil Deal:** One of the biggest oil deals in Canadian history, involving 10,500,000 acres of Saskatchewan's potential oil land, was concluded this week with two groups of American oil companies, Saskatchewan's Minister of Resources, J. H. Brocklebank announced on June 16 at Regina, the Canadian Press reported from Regina.

One of the groups is headed by Tide Water Associated Oil Company and the other by Sohio Petroleum Company.

Their deal was made with Gulf Securities Corporation, Ltd., Montreal, holders of 50 oil permits from the Saskatchewan Government.

The Tide Water group has acquired 36 permits covering about 9,000,000 acres. This includes a block of 6,000,000 acres in the west-central area of the province between Saskatoon and Swift Current.

It also includes 1,000,000 acres in the Qu'Appelle area, 1,000,000 acres in the southeast section of the province adjacent to the Manitoba border and 1,000,000 acres in the extreme southwest.

**Favours Free Markets:** A resolution favouring return to free markets in commodities was adopted by a group meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce at Quebec City on June 16, the Canadian Press reported.

The group was that on International Trade and Markets, whose Chairman, Stanley N. Jones, President of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, declared that "those opposed to the operation of free markets are grasping the present opportunity to have their theories put into practice, and to destroy for all time the machinery of the free market."

**Economic Integration:** Economic integration between Canada and the United States was suggested to the Royal Commission on Transportation on June 16 by an Alberta Government witness.

Prof. Andrew Stewart, head of the Department of Political Economy of the University of Alberta, said the West would benefit heavily from reciprocity with the U.S. through stimulated trade, while the East would not suffer.

Prof. Stewart made the suggestion under examination after delivering a brief for the Government at the opening session of the Edmonton hearings of the Commission, on a country-wide tour of inquiry into national transportation problems, according to the Canadian Press.

**Border Traffic:** Highway traffic between Canada and the United States was 14 per cent heavier in April than in the same month of 1948, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The advance was principally due to Canadian traffic returning from the United States which increased by 40 per cent. United States traffic entering Canada advanced only five per cent.

The comparison between traffic in the two years is influenced by the fact that Easter occurred in April this year but in March last. For that reason a more valid comparison can be made by considering the aggregate volume of traffic for the two months of March and April. Data for the two months show an increase of 10 per cent in total traffic across the border, United States vehicles increasing by two per cent and Canadian vehicles by 32 per cent.

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