

ALASKA HIGHWAY TRAVEL

PERMITS NO LONGER REQUIRED: Restrictions on tourist and pleasure travel over the Alaska Highway have now been removed. Permits to travel over the highway will no longer be required.

The Alaska Highway, which extends for 1,523 miles from Dawson Creek, British Columbia to Fairbanks, Alaska is an all-weather, gravelled road constructed during World War II as a defence measure, and permission to travel over the Canadian Section has been limited in the main to persons having business reasons for using the highway.

The revised policy permitting tourist and pleasure travel has been made possible by an increase in travel facilities and accommodation along the highway. An important contributing factor has been the establishment by the Canadian Government of public camp-grounds at several locations along the Alaska Highway in Yukon Territory. These camp-grounds, which are available to the public without charge, provide cooking and dining shelters containing stoves and tables, and are strategically located in pleasant areas providing access to fresh water.

The Minister of Mines & Resources, Mr. Glen states that an influx of tourists is expected and suggests that it would be well for prospective travellers, who are not equipped for camping, to make arrangements for accommodation in advance.

The General Information Circular relating to the Canadian Section of the Alaska Highway, prepared by the Lands and Development Services Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, has been revised to indicate the new policy governing travel on the highway, and copies will be available from the following sources: Editorial and Information Section, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa; Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa; British Columbia Government Travel Bureau, Victoria, B.C.; and the Provincial Publicity and Travel Bureau, Edmonton, Alberta. This circular contains information concerning the highway and travel facilities and accommodation available en route.

543 LABOUR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES: At the beginning of 1948, there were 543 Labour-Management Production Committees in operation in Canada.

During a recent survey, Labour Department officials found, that most of the committees were functioning to a degree satisfactory to both management and labour. The accomplishments most frequently reported were: increased production, improved quality, reduction of waste, accident prevention, good housekeeping, reduction of absenteeism and the promotion of better understanding between management and labour.

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One of the very gratifying results arising from the joint consideration of these mutual problems, it was stated, had been a reduction in the number of grievances, arising for settlement under the grievances procedures, in plants having functioning Labour-Management Production Committees.

SAFEGUARD AGAINST SILICOSIS

AIR ANALYSIS BY SPECTROMETER: A new machine for studying dust in the air and analyzing its composition has been devised to protect the health of men working in mines and foundries and is currently being installed in the industrial health laboratory of the Department of National Health and Welfare here.

Announcement of the purchase of the new apparatus, known as a geiger-counter X-ray spectrometer, was made by the minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin. Only four other similar machines are in use in Canada, Mr. Martin said, and it is expected that installation of the spectrometer in the Ottawa Laboratory will greatly extend protective health measures against diseases caused by silicosis-producing material in the air.

By means of X-rays the spectrometer not only detects the presence of silica in any given sample of dust but measures the quantity of it in a fraction of the time formerly required. Earlier types of diffraction units showed the presence of silica but the exact percentage could be worked out only by using additional complex equipment or methods.

The new apparatus will greatly increase the industrial health laboratory's capacity to do analyses of dust and quickly to assess the safety from the health standpoint of factories and mines where silicosis-producing material may be present in the air.

The spectrometer will be available to industry through the provincial health departments.

CANADA'S SPECIAL ENVOY

AT VENEZUELA INAUGURATION: James A. Strong, Canadian Ambassador in Peru, was Special Ambassador of Canada at the inauguration of His Excellency Don Romulo Gallegos as President of the Republic of Venezuela at Caracas, Feb. 15.

Mr. Strong presented to the New President of Venezuela the following message from the Prime Minister of Canada.

I desire to take the opportunity afforded me by the attendance of Mr. J.A. Strong as Special Ambassador of Canada at your Excellency's inauguration as President of the Republic of Venezuela, to extend to Your Excellency the assurance of the high regard and sincere friendship which the

Government and people of Canada entertain for Your Excellency and for the Government and people of Venezuela.

I am confident that the friendship existing between Canada and Venezuela, in spite of the distance which separates our two countries, will be maintained and strengthened during the years of your term of office and will contribute to friendship and co-operation between all nations, and thus to the preservation of world peace.

In entering upon the important duties of the distinguished office of President of Venezuela, may I assure Your Excellency of the best wishes of the Government and people of Canada.

C.S. Bissett, Acting Canadian Consul General of Canada in Caracas, was Counsellor to the Special Ambassador.

IMMIGRATION'S UPWARD CURVE: Announcement of a 90.2 increase in December figures over totals for the corresponding month a year ago, is included in a statistical review of immigration for the calendar year issued by the Department of Mines and Resources.

During December, 7,539 immigrants were welcomed as compared with 3,942 during December, 1946. There was a 75.3 rise in numbers of immigrants from the British Isles.

The December figures marked the continuation of an upward swing which had been in effect since September as a result of an increase in available shipping and a speeding-up of the process of examination of immigrants prior to their departure from Europe. The total of immigrants for the last four months of the year was 31,319, which was considerably higher than the figure of 19,277 for the corresponding months of 1946.

Of the total of 73,097 people who came to Canada during the year, 64,127 were immigrants, and 8,970 were Canadians who returned from the United States after varying periods of residence in that country.

BREAKDOWN OF TOTALS

A breakdown of the total of immigrants shows that 38,747 came from the British Isles and 9,440 from the United States. Immigrants belonging to Northern European races numbered 5,482, including 3,192 Dutch. Other races contributed 10,458 new Canadians, the largest individual group being 2,610 Poles.

Ontario absorbed 35,543 new citizens, with British Columbia receiving 8,599 and Quebec 8,272. Figures for the other provinces were as follows: Alberta-3,261; Nova Scotia-2,294; Manitoba-2,747; Saskatchewan-1,901; New Brunswick-1,248; Prince Edward Island-223. Thirty immigrants went to the Yukon Territory, and nine to the Northwest Territories.

Monthly totals of arrivals were the following: January-2,760; February-2,577; March-2,672; April-2,916; May-4,588; June-5,900;

July-5,109; August-6,286; September-7,229; October-8,941; November-7,610; December-7,539.

Of the 8,970 Canadians who returned to this country from the United States during 1947, 6,746 were Canadian born citizens, 1,972 were British Subjects with domicile in Canada, and 252 were naturalized Canadians. The monthly arrival figures were as follows: January-651; February-471; March-680; April-886; May-1,014; June-1,079; July-995; August-705; September-676; October-617; November-633; December-663.

JOINT SERVICES FILM BUREAU: Film bureaux of the Navy, Army and Air Force are now in process of amalgamation and will be known in future as the Joint Services Training Film Bureau. It is expected to be functioning on a tri-Service basis by the end of next month.

In the past, each Service maintained its own film bureau which was responsible for the procurement, distribution and recording of all films and projection equipment used for training and other purposes. These functions will now be carried out by the one bureau at a considerable saving and with more efficiency.

The Joint Services Training Film Bureau will be responsible for storing, cataloguing and organizing the loan and distribution of all training films. It will also co-ordinate the requirements for training films, place orders, allocate projection rooms and ensure that all Services are kept aware of new films available for distribution.

"EXERCISE MOCCASIN" NEARS END OF TESTS:

That small force of 18 officers and men the Army sent into the wilds south of Fort Churchill six weeks ago to conduct Army Signals trials under extreme-cold conditions is reported as "doing all right".

Airmailed reports to Ottawa from Lt. M.D. Chaffee, Kingston, Ont., and Vernon, B.C., one of three officers with "Exercise Moccasin", reveal that the men experienced little difficulty in adjusting themselves to their new outdoor life, and that the trials, now well under way, are progressing favourably in spite of one really severe storm. Camps have moved progressively until one is now 50 miles from Churchill and the other 60 miles.

"Moccasin" left Churchill January 3 and set up its first of a series of temporary tent camps at dark in a heavy snowstorm. The trials will continue for approximately another two weeks. The party is being supplied by tractor train which also is run by army personnel.

Officer commanding the joint Army Signals - Army Service Corps exercise is Major Frank Riddell of Ottawa, who was communications officer with "Exercise Muskox" in 1946. The men now serving with him on "Exercise Moccasin" are among the first to qualify for the recently announced new northern allowances.