

presented special construction problems in Northern Ontario, Newfoundland and elsewhere. In Newfoundland, a wide, marshy track full of dead trees, leaves and debris had to be excavated before a stable foundation could be laid. In some places the muck was as much as 25 feet deep. Then there was the "gumbo," a treacherous, heavy clay soil covering 25 to 50 per cent of the route across the western plains, which called for the use of reinforced concrete and other special techniques. In Quebec, the highway is at present being pushed through the heart of Canada's largest city, Montreal, by means of such complex projects as a 1,900-foot bridge-tunnel crossing of the St. Lawrence River. In British Columbia, the road crew had literally to move mountains. Work was extremely hazardous in the Fraser and Kicking Horse Canyons, where hard-rock miners blasted away mountain walls 500 to 1,000 feet above turbulent rivers. Landslides were frequent. Since in most places the railway ran below the new highway, great care had to be taken to protect the tracks, and tons of rubble had to be carried away truck-load by truck-load. In a single nine-mile stretch between Field and Golden, two million tons of rock and an equal amount of dirt had to be moved, a job requiring 2,000 tons of explosive.

To combat snowsheds, the Department of Public Works has devised an elaborate system of avalanche detectors. A one-mile section in Glacier National Park consists almost exclusively of snowsheds, the most effective type of defence.

On September 3, 1967, a ceremony held in Rogers Pass in Glacier National Park marked the opening of the last major physical gap in the route making it possible to travel from coast to coast.

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