

Canada's investment in Civil Aviation runs into the billions of dollars and we have cause to be proud of our standing among air-minded nations. We today are able to successfully compete with the airlines of other countries for a fair share of international air traffic. But that is not sufficient. Lying as we are at the very crossroad of the air world, we must expand our air facilities to the far corners of our domain and must also retain our high standing in the air world, providing service to all.

As recently as September 1 last, the facilities at Frobisher Bay on Baffin Land were taken over by the Department as a civilian airport and two days later, the first civilian aircraft travelling the trans-polar route from Los Angeles to Paris touched down to refuel. This gives you some idea of the demands of the air world of today. Less than six months later, the airport at Frobisher is being used as a refuelling base by four airlines using the trans-polar route and more airlines are considering its use.

Airport terminal facilities at Frobisher are, to say the least, very limited. We are extending the runways to meet the requirements of the most modern aircraft; we have converted part of the hangar into a temporary public waiting room; we have provided two Neilson Huts for additional passenger facilities; and we have extended the room facilities at the new staff house that has been erected. Facilities we can provide the travelling public are still too limited for modern requirements.

I am drawing attention to conditions at Frobisher as an indication of the gigantic, and somewhat expensive, task we have to undertake up north. Not only do we have to expand existing facilities, but we have to open up new areas. We have to extend our airways, with all their facilities; to help develop this great northern country of ours. We have to provide for the safe navigation of airlines utilizing our northern air routes, and we have to provide for the safety of the air passenger, whether flying in the comfort of a modern airlines, or undertaking exploratory work which may lead to further developments of our Arctic northland.

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