

communications companies. The Ministry has encouraged the development of public telecommunications services in the North by the commercial communications companies. This has resulted in standard public telephone and telegraph services being provided along the Mackenzie Valley, including modern telephone exchanges, and mobile radio-telephone service, as well as leased-line service, at many isolated locations throughout the Northwest. These services are of particular assistance in the development of air-transportation.

Meteorological Services⁽²⁾

Meteorology is an indispensable part of air-transportation, while communications stations in the North have carried out some weather-observing work for many years. A major advance in this field was the opening, mentioned earlier, of the joint Canadian-U.S. weather stations at Alert, Resolute Bay, Eureka, Mould Bay and Isachsen in the Arctic islands. These top-of-the-world stations make a vital contribution in the realm of climatology.

Today there are some 110 Meteorological Branch staff members employed by the Department at 22 northern airports and observation stations. The observations from these points, as well as from stations operated by other Government agencies under contract with private firms, are channelled into the communications system, which relays the information throughout most of North America and, in certain cases, to much of the northern hemisphere.

The Arctic Weather Central at Edmonton analyses these observations and provides weather forecasts for aviation, marine and other northern interests.

Other means of transportation in the interests of Arctic development are being given careful study both by Federal Government agencies and private enterprise. The use of air-cushion vehicles, which appear to hold promise as a means of transport in some parts of the North, have already been tested in the Northwest. Assessment of this relatively new means of transport, under the rugged conditions of both terrain and climate that prevail in the Arctic, is continuing.

RP/A

(2) See also Reprint No. R28 -- *Joint Arctic Weather Stations: Twenty-five Years.*