



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 49/39

THE CANADIAN TRANSPORTATION PICTURE

A "Transportation Day" Address given by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Lionel Chevrier, at the Canadian National Exhibition, in Toronto, Canada, on September 8, 1949.

The Canadian National Exhibition holds a unique place in our national life. It can be called the "sounding board" of Canadian progress from year to year, and I am most happy to be given this opportunity to outline the progress of transportation in its many fields, both domestic and international. I think that it was a happy thought to have joined the commercial travellers with transportation for special recognition on this day of the Exhibition. No one is closer to or more appreciative of the problems of transportation than commercial travellers.

Before I start on my main theme, I may here interject that I am very pleased to be associated on this "Transportation Day" of the Canadian National Exhibition in the recognition being given to achievements of the late Sir Sandford Fleming who was the originator of the Zone System of Standard Time.

Value of Standard Time

The value of Standard Time zones to transportation can best be appreciated by trying to imagine present-day activities being carried on under the confusion of different local times. Prior to the adoption of the Zone System of Standard Time there were as many as three different times shown at our local stations - a clock for local time, another for trains going east and another for trains going west. Prior to the adoption of Standard Time there were said to be nearly 100 different times in the United States, while there is on record a railway timetable in England showing 17 different times in a distance of 120 miles.

Too many persons are unaware of the fact that a Canadian was responsible for giving leadership in this great time reform, and too little recognition has been given to this monumental work, for which Sandford Fleming was later knighted. I, therefore, wish to take this opportunity to associate myself with organizations in the transportation and communication field in acknowledging the value and importance of Sir Fleming's achievement.

Transportation covers such a wide scope of activity that I propose to review it under three separate headings, namely: - aviation, railways and water transportation.

Aviation Newest Field

Aviation is the newest field of transportation with which the Federal Government is concerned. Already in the brief space of a generation it has become a strong and integral part of our national and inter-