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CIVIL AVIATION REPORT

The Department of Transport, joining in observances of the 50th anniversary of powered flight in Canada, reports that it is coping with the heaviest work load in its history, where aviation developments are concerned.

There are now 4,000 aircraft registered in Canada, a far cry from the number in use when the Department first took over the administration of civil aviation from the Defence Department in 1936. In addition, there is an endless stream of air traffic in and out of the country from foreign lands. The job of meeting the demands put upon the nation's flying facilities is a full-capacity, around-the-clock one for the Department's Air Services.

The Department of Transport maintains the 28 major department-operated airports across Canada. All told, it operates 80 licensed airports and three licensed seaplane bases. It also has under its jurisdiction 33 unlicensed airdromes and six unlicensed seaplane bases.

The Department has been carrying on an extensive programme of air terminal building. Cost of such buildings, opened within the past two years or now under construction, runs close to \$62 million. Among them are such terminals as those at Toronto and Winnipeg, planned to meet the requirements of international "jet age" travel.

At the same time, work has gone ahead without interruption in the fields of meteorology and telecommunications, to keep Cana-

dian aviation facilities fully abreast of the latest scientific developments.

OPERATES OWN FLEET

To keep pace with Canada's expanding aviation industry, the Department of Transport has its own air fleet of 40 aircraft, ranging from helicopters and small Apache planes to turbo-prop Viscounts.

The smaller airplanes are used mainly by the 81 inspectors who are constantly on the move. These men, most of them with airline pilot ratings, inspect aviation facilities all over Canada to see that they meet proper standards of safety and service. They also check up on the qualifications of civilian transport pilots regularly and render other services relative to operation of airports and to flying.

Heavier twin-engined aircraft are equipped for checking the operation of air navigation aids that provide airmen with safe "highways" across the skies. Some are also used occasionally for carrying supplies and personnel to remote northern stations operated by the Department of Transport, as well as for transporting Department officials on urgent business when other travel facilities are unavailable or would be uneconomical in both cost and time.

The Department uses two Viscount aircraft at times as executive planes for transporting such persons as the Prime Minister, members of