

AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION

One particular effect of this last war on Canadian civil aviation is that during this period Canada became the greatest aircraft producer per capita in the democratic world. To supply its gigantic air training program, Canada undertook to manufacture 21 different types of aircraft, ranging from "Tiger Moth" and "Anson" trainers to speedy "Mosquitoes" and "Hurricanes" as well as huge "Lancaster" bombers and "Catalina" flying boats. Each of these was a leader in its particular field, although only two were of original Canadian design. Starting practically from scratch (an output of a hundred or so aircraft a year), Canada produced a wartime total of about 16,000 aircraft. A total of some 100,000 Canadians were employed during the war in manufacturing these aircraft and their accessories.

As a result of the war, Canada has plants capable of producing all types of planes and a superabundance of skilled workers in every field associated with flight. Considerable experience has also been gained in producing aircraft accessories. The major materials in modern aircraft production, such as aluminum, are produced in abundance in Canada. The number of aircraft now being manufactured in Canada, though considerably less than during wartime is more than before the war and the average value much greater.

Probably the most significant development of the post-war production is the 40-passenger "North Star," the flagship of TCA. This second postwar airliner to be put into operation in the world is manufactured for the Canadian Government by Canadair Limited in Montreal. Specifically designed for Canadian conditions, this airliner is a modification of the American Douglas "DC4," incorporating "DC6" characteristics, but four of the more powerful British Rolls Royce engines carry it faster and higher. The "North Star" has a maximum speed of about 350 miles an hour and it is able to fly 3,500 miles without stopping. Being pressurized, it can go as high as 28,000 feet above sea level, high above any bad weather.

The Canadian Government fostered production of the "North Stars" with the view of promoting a vigorous airplane industry as an essential complement to Canada's aviation plans. The "North Stars" are also being supplied to the RCAF as a long-range transport aircraft and are to be used by TCA on