

Supplementary Canol Project

The supplementary pipeline from Skagway to Whitehorse has been welded for 23 of the 111 miles, while another 20 odd miles have been distributed for welding. Fifteen 10,000 barrel storage tanks are being erected at Skagway and about twenty at Whitehorse. The United States Government has taken over the operation of the Yukon and Whitepass Railway as from October 1st.

North Atlantic Ferry Routes

The air base at Churchill is progressing rapidly, and large quantities of material have reached the port. To September 25th, 1942, 2,751 carloads of troops and equipment had been delivered. Much of these supplies was to be moved by ship on to further bases but because of lack of ships, some 600 railway cars of material are awaiting unloading in Churchill. This bottleneck, already described in the last report to War Committee, has become worse, and arrangements are now being made to store less essential materials until next year. Shipping so far has been carried on mainly with vessels supplied by Canada.

Construction is underway at the base on Southampton Island and it is reported one landing strip will be in operation before freeze-up.

At The Pas, the airport has been located and construction begun. One landing strip was almost completely graded at the end of September. United States personnel is engaged in the construction of control towers, and installation of communications equipment at both Churchill and The Pas.

The division of construction costs between Canada and the United States on the Atlantic ferry routes and on the northwest staging is causing some difficulties. There is no problem where the United States has assumed full responsibility for construction, as at Churchill; in other instances problems of interpretation have arisen.

Cabinet War Committee on April 22nd decided that Canada would pay for bases up to Canadian standards and requirements but that anything beyond that should be for United States account. An attempt to assess Canadian standards and requirements at the different bases has been undertaken through the Department of National Defence for Air and a report will be submitted to War Committee.

Prince George - Alaska Railway Survey

On September 1st, 1942, 78% of the survey had been completed as compared with 80% scheduled for completion. It was expected that the project would be ready by October 1st as intended, although forest fires in British Columbia had delayed work in that sector. The survey in Yukon Territory and Alaska was finished on September 19th and four survey parties transferred to British Columbia to speed up work there.

While inquiries brought the statement from the United States that no decision regarding construction of the railway had been or would be taken until the survey was done, rumours continue that the United States intends to build the line. The Minister of Munitions and Supply has already informed Mr. Delano