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FEBRUARY, 1957

CANADIAN AVIATION

business trends TCA's 1956 Record

Presenting his review of Trans-Canada Air Lines' operation during 1956, President G. R. McGregor said that for the first time more than two million passengers had been carried in one year. The year's estimated total of 2,100,000 represented a 25 per cent increase on the 1955 figure of 1,682,195.

In all, he said, roughly a billion revenue passenger miles were flown on TCA's routes in Canada and the U. S. A further 188,000,000 were flown on the trans-Atlantic routes to U. K. and Europe, and on the southern services to Bermuda and the Caribbean. The total showed a 23 per cent increase on 1955 figures.

Mr. McGregor reported "outstanding growth" in almost every phase of the company's operations and said the greatest number of seat miles so far—some 1,635,000,000—had been made available in 1956.

Referring to the ordering of the long-range DC-8s by TCA, the President said this outstanding feature of the year represented the first step taken toward the commercial jet age in Canada. The DC-8s will be powered by Rolls Royce Conway turbo-jet engines and will carry 120 passengers and three tons of cargo at 550 m.p.h.

In air freight traffic TCA recorded a 19 per cent increase over the previous year, approximately 11,815,000 ton-miles being flown. Air mail carriage had increased by 12 per cent to 8,640,000 mail ton-miles.

By the end of 1956 TCA had 18 Vickers Viscount aircraft in service. These transported over a million passengers with a seat occupancy consistently above 80 per cent. Two more Viscount orders were placed during the year bringing the number delivered or on order to 38. The airline's fleet also includes 21 North Stars, four of them converted to freighters, and 24 DC-3s.

Refueling Merger

Flight Refueling Inc. of Baltimore has acquired the assets of Automation Industries Inc. of Cockeysville, Md. The latter firm will continue design, building and construction of specialized automation systems and will make available experience in the automation field for the design and development of advanced aerial refueling systems and fueling systems required for guided missile and atomic energy plants.

Lockheed Orders

Airline orders received by Lockheed during 1956 totalled approximately \$175,000,000. The figure represents the highest civil sales volume for any year except 1955 when Lockheed sales reached an all time record \$314,000,000.

DDP Contracts

Contract for \$1,331,000 has been placed with Avro Aircraft Ltd., Toronto, by the Department of Defence Production for airframe spares.

Other contracts went to Orenda Engines Ltd., Toronto, for aero engine spares (\$450,000); Honeywell Controls Ltd., Leaside, Ont., for spares and aircraft instruments (\$364,000); Aviation Electric Ltd., Montreal, aircraft instrument spares (\$361,883); and Godfrey Engineering Co. Ltd., repair and overhaul of cabin superchargers, aircraft cooling material and air research material (\$332,000).

Apache Sales Advance

Sales of the Piper Aircraft Corporation increased by 49% during year ended September 30, 1956, according to President W. T. Piper. The company's annual report shows gross sales amounting to \$25,084,000, and net earnings after taxes of \$2,554,000. Figures for the previous year were \$16,813,000 gross sales and \$1,401,000 net earnings.

Popularity of the twin-engine Piper Apache was given as the chief reason for the improvement. The machine accounted for about 40% of the company's dollar volume. Apache sales increased by 59% over the previous year and represented 44% of all light twin-engine airplanes sold in the U. S.

Aircraft Insurance

The Great American Insurance Company and the Great American Indemnity Company have become members of the Canadian Aircraft Insurance Group and will participate in the writing of aircraft hull insurance and aircraft liability insurance respectively. Canadian head office of the Great American Companies is in Toronto, with branches in Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, London, Sudbury, Winnipeg and Vancouver. CAIG is managed by Canadian Aviation Insurance Managers, Ltd., in Montreal.

Radar Contract

A \$17-million contract for airborne radar navigation systems has been granted by the USAF Air Material Command to General Precision Laboratory, of Pleasantville, N.Y. The order is for the Doppler AN/APN-81 and 89 systems which are said to provide direct and continuous readings of a plane's ground speed and drift angle, independent of ground or celestial guidance.

Employment Peak

New peak employment figure in the Connecticut facilities of Pratt and Whitney Aircraft is 40,000. This is several hundred more than the highest employment figure during World War II.