

The Post Office Department is administered by the Postmaster-General. Besides the several administrative branches within the Department, the Dominion is divided into 15 districts, each in charge of a Post Office Inspector. The Canadian system embraces a territory more extensive than that served by any other systems except those of the United States and Russia, and must do this with a much smaller population.

**Money Order and Savings Bank Services.**—The auxiliary postal services—the money order service and post office savings bank—have expanded enormously between Confederation and the present time. In 1868 there were 515 Money Order offices in operation, issuing orders to an amount of \$3,342,574. In 1921, these figures had increased to 5,197 and \$173,523,322. The Post Office savings banks were established in 1868, deposits for the first year being \$861,655. In 1921 the 1,328 banks in operation showed deposits for the year of \$6,631,685, and total balance due to depositors of \$31,605,594.

**Rural Mail Delivery.**—A system of rural mail delivery was inaugurated in Canada on October 10, 1908, limited at that time to existing stage routes, persons residing on such routes being entitled to have mail boxes put up in which the mail carrier was to deposit mail matter and from which he was to collect mail matter and carry it to the post office. As a consequence of the public approval of this scheme new regulations, taking effect on April 1, 1912, made all persons residing in rural districts along and contiguous to well defined main thoroughfares of one mile and upwards eligible to receive their mail in this manner, while couriers of rural mail routes were also required to sell postage stamps and take applications for and accept money, money orders and postal notes. The result has been an increase in the number of rural routes from approximately 900 in 1912 to 3,750 in 1921, having 194,790 mail boxes as against approximately 25,000 in 1912. The establishment of these routes has been an important factor in the recent amelioration of the conditions of Canadian rural life.

**Postal Statistics.**—During the fiscal year 1921 there was an increase of 407 miles in the system over which the mails are carried by railway, bringing the total actual track mileage for the carriage of mails on March 31, 1921, to 35,949 miles. The total mileage of mail conveyance by railway was 41,215,804 miles as against 39,355,268 in the previous year, indicating reasonably, rapid expansion in the postal service. Statistics of the number of post offices in operation on March 31, 1921, are given in Table 69, of postal revenue for 1920 and 1921 in Table 70 and of revenue and expenditure of the Post Office Department since 1890 in Table 71. A list of mail subsidies and steamship subventions is given in Table 72. Table 73 is an historic table showing the operation of the money order system from 1901, while Table 74 gives detailed statistics of money orders for recent years. Table 75 deals with the number and value of postal notes in recent years and Table 76 with the issue of postage stamps in the past two fiscal years.