

The Canadian Northern Express Co. was incorporated in 1902 with a nominal capital of \$1,000,000, of which \$300,000 was issued. The sum of \$5,000 was paid in cash and the remainder was issued as paid-up stock. Mackenzie, Mann and Co., Ltd., received all but five \$100 shares, which went to qualify directors. The connection between the railway and the express company consisted in the two companies having practically the same directors.

On the taking over of the C.N.R. and the G.T.R. by the Government and the consolidation of the Canadian National Railway system, the express business of the two companies was amalgamated under one management; from Sept. 1, 1921, the operations of the Canadian Express Co. and the Canadian National Express Co. were carried on under the name of the latter.

Before 1915, an express company in Canada was not liable for delay or damage caused by anything quite beyond its control, thus maintaining itself as an entity separate from the railway company. But in 1915 this liability was qualified, and thenceforth an express company became liable for delay or injury of goods if either was caused by the railway company in whose cars the goods were being carried.

Goods are sent by express for quick transit, so that express companies do not have to compete with freight rates by rail or water. Thus in its first tariff the Dominion Express Co., in pursuance of its contract with the C.P.R., gave a rate of 2½ times the maximum first-class railway freight rate for the same goods carried the same distance. An express company usually pays the railway company a percentage of its gross earnings; for example, the Canadian Express Co. paid the Grand Trunk 50 p.c. But the railway, by controlling the stock, has an additional revenue; and since express companies have little equipment but offices, and, therefore have slight expenses for upkeep, the railway receives in the end practically all the profits of the express company above bare operating expenses. Express rates, like freight rates, are subject to the approval of the Board of Railway Commissioners.

Express Company Operations.—There were operating in Canada in 1925, the last year for which the statistics of the Transportation Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics are available, only three distinctly Canadian express companies, viz., the Central Canada Express Co., the Dominion Express Co. and the British America Express Co., the Canadian National Express Co. having been absorbed by the Canadian National Railway system, which now carries on the express business formerly transacted by its subsidiary company as an "express department". They are organized under powers conferred by Acts of the Dominion Parliament, and their business consists in the forwarding of parcels, the transfer of baggage and the issue of money orders, travellers' cheques, letters of credit and other forms of financial paper. Three other express companies situated in the United States, but consolidated during the war period, like the United States railways, under the operation of a single management appointed by the United States Government, and referred to here as "American Railway", also do business in Canada. The total capital liabilities of the three Canadian companies and of the Canadian National express department on Dec. 31, 1925, stood at \$9,202,825.

A considerable part of the business of express companies has during recent years been drawn off by the numerous motor bus and motor truck systems now in operation. Transport facilities offered by motor vehicles have proved to be of much value, and with the building of improved road systems throughout the country, further decreases in the amount of express traffic now carried by the railways over short distances may be expected.