

extended to all places in South America. For these countries the rate is 2 cents per ounce, while for other Postal Union countries it is 8 cents on the first ounce and 4 cents on succeeding ounces. In spite of reductions of from 20 p.c. to 33 p.c. represented by these changes, which were effective for 9 months of the fiscal year 1927, Table 79 shows a comparatively small reduction in the net revenue of the Post Office Department in that year, while in the fiscal year 1929, during the whole of which penny postage was in effect for inland post and for the countries of North America, the net revenue of the Department increased nearly \$2,000,000 over that of 1927. The effect of the reduction in rates was largely offset by increases in postal business.

The Post Office Department is administered by the Postmaster-General. Besides the several administrative branches at Ottawa, the Dominion is divided into 15 districts, each in charge of a Superintendent of Postal Service. The Canadian system embraces a territory more extensive than that served by any other systems except those of the United States and Russia, the sparsity of population and the comparative lack of development making inevitable a peculiarly difficult and expensive service.

Rural Mail Delivery.—A system of rural mail delivery was inaugurated in Canada on Oct. 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 on rural mail routes were also required to sell postage stamps and take applications, and accept money for, money orders and postal notes. The result has been an increase in the number of rural routes from approximately 900 in 1912 to 3,915 in 1929, having 206,459 mail boxes as against approximately 25,000 in 1912. The establishment of these routes has been an important factor in the amelioration of the conditions of Canadian rural life.

Statistics.—Tables 77 to 79 show the number of post offices in operation in Canada in the latest six years, the gross revenue in all offices collecting \$10,000 and upwards in 1928 and 1929, and the net revenue and expenditure of the Department in various years since 1890.

77.—Number of Post Offices in Operation in the several Provinces of Canada, Mar. 31, 1924-1929.

Provinces.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Prince Edward Island.....	131	130	131	130	128	127
Nova Scotia.....	1,819	1,793	1,791	1,778	1,771	1,770
New Brunswick.....	1,131	1,126	1,119	1,113	1,114	1,079
Quebec.....	2,366	2,396	2,429	2,463	2,514	2,528
Ontario.....	2,597	2,588	2,613	2,614	2,604	2,586
Manitoba.....	816	813	818	817	817	816
Saskatchewan.....	1,408	1,414	1,433	1,428	1,428	1,423
Alberta.....	1,215	1,211	1,203	1,195	1,200	1,189
British Columbia.....	855	871	868	867	866	876
Yukon Territory.....	19	19	20	20	20	20
Northwest Territories.....	13	15	14	15	16	16
Total.....	12,370	12,376	12,439	12,440	12,478	12,430