

PART IV.—EXPRESS COMPANIES.¹

"Express service is an expedited freight service on passenger trains" But express companies do not own the means of performing their services; they use railway facilities by virtue of contracts with the railway companies. Express companies in Canada have had close relations with the railways practically from the beginning. A brief history of the various express companies will be found on pp. 611-612 of the 1926 Year Book.

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 rates do not compete with freight rates. Thus in its first tariff the Dominion Express Co., in pursuance of its contract with the Canadian Pacific Railway, gave a rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ 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 small 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.—During 1929, the latest year for which the statistics of the Transportation Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics are available, there were four Canadian and one American express organizations operating in Canada. The Canadian Pacific Express Co., formerly the Dominion Express Co., is a subsidiary of the Canadian Pacific Railway and handles the express business on the railways and the inland and ocean steamship lines of the parent company. The express business of the Canadian National System is handled by a department of the railway. The British America Express Co. operates over the Algoma Central and Algoma Eastern Railways. The Central Canada Express Co. was formerly operated over the Central Canada, the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia and the Alberta and Great Waterways Railways, but in 1927 its business was taken over by the Canadian National Express Department. With the amalgamation of these railways in 1929 and formation of the Northern Alberta Railways Company, the express business was handled by a department of the new company from Nov. 1, 1929. The American Railway Express Co. operates over the Canadian sections of United States railways and over the route from Skagway to points in the Yukon Territory. The business of this company was taken over by the Railway Express Agency, Incorp., on Mar. 1, 1929. These companies 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 (Table 32). The total capital liabilities of the two Canadian companies and of the Canadian National Express Department stood at \$8,529,573 on Dec. 31, 1929.

¹ Revised and checked by G. S. Wrong, B.Sc., Chief of the Transportation and Public Utilities Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This Branch issues an annual report on Express Statistics.