

Penny postage again became effective for Canada, the United States, Newfoundland and other countries of the continent of North America on July 1, 1926, and for Great Britain and all other places within the British Empire on Dec. 25, 1928. On May 24, 1929, penny postage became effective to France and, on Dec. 25, 1929, was 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 5 cents on the first ounce and 3 cents on succeeding ounces. In spite of reductions of from 33 p.c. to 50 p.c. represented by these changes, the first of which were effective for 9 months of the fiscal year 1927, Table 80 shows a comparatively small reduction in the net revenue of the Post Office Department in that year. However, in the fiscal year 1930, during the whole of which penny postage was in effect for inland post for the countries of North America and for all places in the Empire, as well as for France and South America during part of the year, the net revenue of the Department increased \$3,500,000 over that of 1927. The effect of the reduction in rates was offset by increases in postal business.

In its per capita use of the mails Canada takes a high place. In 1868, the year following Confederation, the average postal expenditure for each member of the population was less than 27 cents, whereas during 1930 each person in Canada expended approximately \$3.70. This is more remarkable when it is considered that rates of postage have decreased greatly during this period.

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 system, excepting those of the United States and Russia, though the sparsity of population and the comparative lack of development make 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 4,210 in 1930, having 237,351 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 78 to 80 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 1929 and 1930, and the net revenue and expenditure of the Department in various years since 1890.

¹ Revised, as to financial transactions, by H. E. Atwater, Financial Superintendent, Post Office Department.