

Extension of the daily period of network operation necessitated a corresponding enlargement of program production activities. Efforts were made also to improve the quality of Commission broadcasting. Several series of programs of a distinctively Canadian character, some of them based on subjects of historical interest, were developed. Improvement was sought in informative and educational broadcasts. The informative item, "A Fact a Day About Canada", broadcast daily in the news period, continued to have a very large following, especially among teachers and students. This item is compiled and supplied to the Commission by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The Northern Messenger Service, a weekly short- and long-wave broadcast of personal messages and news summaries for the special benefit of persons stationed in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions, gave increasing satisfaction. It was established that between 75 p.c. and 80 p.c. of the personal messages carried on this service were received by those to whom they were addressed. A number of special broadcasts of exceptional interest were given, including a broadcast of the opening of Parliament. The Commission continued to lend its facilities in connection with efforts for international peace, relief, and causes being promoted by various departments of the Government service, and other public causes.

PART XIII.—THE POST OFFICE.

Historical.—A brief account of the pre-Confederation development of postal services in Canada was given on pp. 789-790 of the 1934-35 Year Book.

At Confederation the provincial systems were transferred to the Dominion. The Post Office Act of 1867 established a service throughout Canada. The domestic rate on letters was reduced from 5 to 3 cents per half-ounce, and in 1870 the rates to the United States and the United Kingdom were reduced from 10 to 6 cents and from 12½ to 6 cents, respectively, per half-ounce. In 1875 a convention between Canada and the United States reduced postal rates between the countries to the domestic level. In 1878, on the admission of Canada to the Postal Union, letter postage to the countries of the Postal Union was reduced to 5 cents per half-ounce. After a conference in 1897 Imperial penny postage (2 cents per half-ounce) was established on Dec. 25, 1898, while the domestic rate was reduced from 3 to 2 cents per ounce. These rates were maintained until 1915, when, with the rising costs of the war period, rates were increased. Penny postage again became effective for Canada, to the United States, Newfoundland and other countries of North America on July 1, 1926, and to the United Kingdom and all other places within the British Empire on Dec. 25, 1928, with later extensions to France and South America. On July 1, 1931, a special revenue tax, imposed by the Government for the purpose of obtaining additional revenue, came into effect on letters addressed to places in Canada, throughout the Empire, to France and to North and South America generally, making the rate in these cases 3 cents for the first ounce and 2 cents for each succeeding ounce.

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 United States and Russia, and the sparsity of population and the comparative lack of development make inevitable a peculiarly difficult and relatively expensive service.