

PART VIII.—THE POST OFFICE*

Historical.—A brief account of the development of postal services in Canada is given at pp. 789-790 of the 1934-35 Year Book.

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 District Director or Superintendent of Postal Service. The Canadian system embraces a territory more extensive than that served by any other system, except those of United States and Russia, and the relatively small population compared with the great distance to be covered makes inevitable a particularly difficult and relatively 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. The service was greatly extended by new regulations that took effect on Apr. 1, 1921. The result has been an increase in the number of rural routes from approximately 900 in 1912 to 4,841 in 1941 having 280,610 mail boxes as against approximately 25,000 in 1912.

Mail Transportation.—The conveyance of mail by land, water, and air entailed a total expenditure of \$18,290,090 during the fiscal year ended 1941. Railway carriage cost \$7,060,522, land transportation \$6,388,911, conveyance by steamship \$1,002,217, and conveyance by air \$3,838,440. These amounts were paid solely for services rendered as carriers. For details regarding air-mail services, see p. 667. Special subsidies are granted to assure the maintenance of certain steamship services. Since these subsidized services provide transportation for passengers and freight as well as mail, the subsidies are included with other expenditures on water transportation at pp. 627-628.

* Revised by H. Beaulieu, Director, Administrative Services, Post Office Department.

1.—Post Offices in Operation, by Provinces, as at Mar. 31, 1936-41

Province	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	114	114	115	115	115	115
Nova Scotia.....	1,565	1,551	1,543	1,540	1,530	1,508
New Brunswick.....	1,002	1,009	1,023	1,026	1,024	1,020
Quebec.....	2,494	2,542	2,592	2,625	2,646	2,627
Ontario.....	2,559	2,589	2,623	2,640	2,655	2,639
Manitoba.....	788	794	798	806	813	810
Saskatchewan.....	1,460	1,482	1,501	1,515	1,530	1,528
Alberta.....	1,243	1,246	1,259	1,266	1,267	1,262
British Columbia.....	895	908	929	940	938	932
Yukon.....	18	18	18	18	16	15
Northwest Territories.....	18	19	20	23	23	21
Canada.....	12,156	12,272	12,421	12,514	12,557	12,477