

The Post Office Department is constantly alert to meet the postal needs and at all times endeavours to effect schedule changes, increased frequencies of service, and extensions of facilities to serve the Canadian public. The fiscal year 1942-43 saw the introduction of direct air-mail service from Montreal to Quebec, Bagotville (Shipshaw), Labrador, Cape Breton and Newfoundland. Thirty-nine hundred miles of air route now reach from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, B.C. Greater frequency of service was given the Mackenzie River and Alaska Highway areas to serve increased activity and air mail has been supplementing steamship service at various points on the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The growing "air-mindedness" of Canadian citizens is reflected in the expanding use of Canada's air-mail services:—

	<i>Mail Carried by Air.</i>	<i>Miles Flown</i>
	lb.	No.
1938-39.....	1,822,399	3,711,987
1939-40.....	2,351,172	5,769,257
1940-41.....	2,842,367	8,330,121
1941-42.....	3,541,625	10,021,579
1942-43.....	5,373,021	10,799,670

**The Post Office in War-Time.**—Although not listed as a war-time Department, the Canadian Post Office holds a key position in the national war effort, not only in maintaining ordinary postal services under extremely difficult conditions, but in the field of the military mails and in its co-operation with other Government Departments. Because of the nature of its service, it is filling an indispensable role in the maintenance of the morale both of civilians in this country and of the Armed Forces here and abroad, to whom "letters from home" are of utmost importance.

War-time conditions have brought a continuing and enormous expansion of postal business of all kinds as war industry, the Government and the private citizen are utilizing postal facilities as never before. This is revealed in the gross postal revenues that have increased annually from \$42,896,179 in 1938-39 to \$59,175,140 in the fiscal year 1942-43. Coupled with this great increase in business the Post Office Department has been faced with the depletion of postal staff due to enlistments; this necessitated the use of inexperienced help and of women to fill the gaps. The problem of obtaining adequate transportation facilities for the mails has also been acute.

In liaison with other Government Departments, the Post Office Department has undertaken many special activities and is Canada's leading agency for selling war savings stamps and certificates through its post offices. The value of war savings stamps thus sold was \$11,389,499 in the fiscal year 1941-42 and millions of dollars worth of war savings certificates were sold and delivered to purchasers by the Postal Service. In the distribution end millions of forms, pledges, etc., have been delivered to householders in Canada and to all business firms.

Also handled through the 12,313 Canadian post offices are the sale of unemployment insurance stamps, the distribution of income tax forms, ration books, gasoline ration forms, etc.; the National Registration, the registration of enemy aliens, registration for military service, registration of nurses, the registration of women, etc. Co-operation is given in foreign exchange examination work.