

The Post Office in Wartime.—Although not listed as a wartime 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.

Wartime conditions have brought a continuing and enormous expansion of postal business of all kinds; 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 \$73,004,399 in the fiscal year 1943-44. 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, through its post offices, is Canada's leading agency for selling war savings stamps and certificates. The value of war savings stamps thus sold was \$12,227,916 in the fiscal year 1943-44 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 business firms.

Also handled through the 12,234 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.

Military Mails.—The Canadian Postal Corps was recruited, in 1939, from executives and personnel of the Canadian Post Office and is serving all branches of the Armed Forces.

During the year 1944, the Base Post Office in Canada despatched to the Armed Forces overseas the record volume of over 58,500,000 letters, over 10,500,000 parcels and over 1,400,000 lb. of news.

Members of the Armed Forces overseas have been granted free mailing on ordinary letters and a special reduced rate of 3d. on Air Letters to Canada. In the case of mail from Canada, special reduced rates have been granted on both letters and parcels mailed to the Armed Forces overseas. Postal money remittances to them have been facilitated and special methods of supplying cigarettes and tobacco have also been introduced.

Facilities have been established to expedite correspondence to the Armed Forces. The Airgraph system—letters on film transported by air—is providing a fast and space-conserving method of communication. Airgraph messages are processed on rolls of micro-film, flown to the United Kingdom, certain Mediterranean areas, India, Ceylon, Australia or New Zealand as the case may be, and then enlarged and delivered. Airgraph service is operated on a two-way basis between Canada and the above-mentioned countries and has been extended to facilitate inter-civilian correspondence. The rate is 5 cents per message.