

air between one Canadian point and another, whenever delivery can thus be facilitated. Air-stage service provides the sole means of communication with the outside for many areas in the hinterland. There are approximately 19,000 miles of air-mail and air-stage routes in Canada.

Nevertheless, the principal means of mail transportation is still the railway-mail service which operates along about 40,000 miles of track, and covers an annual track mileage exceeding 45,733,000. The railway-mail service employs a staff of 1,300 mail clerks who prepare the mails for prompt delivery and despatch, while *en route* in the railway mail cars. Like its air-mail service, Canada's railway mail service is one of the most extensive in the world.

An extensive rural mail organization distributes the mail to more remote sections of the country: 4,943 rural mail routes are covered by mail couriers whose daily routes cover 113,000 miles of territory and serve 348,000 rural mail boxes. Isolated points are served by motor-vehicle and stage services. The rural mail routes are laid out in a circular pattern, each about 25 miles in circumference, and the couriers are employed on the tender system, tenders being awarded usually to the lowest tenderer who is paid according to his tender and who must provide all the requisite equipment.

The Post Office delivers an estimated 2,400,000,000 items of mail annually, and to do this utilizes the most up-to-date mechanical handling devices, including conveyer belts and electric cancelling machines, etc., in its larger offices.

The increase in postal business is one of the impressive features of Canada's economic development during the past 15 years. From \$30,367,465 in 1934, net income has increased year by year to \$80,618,401 by Mar. 31, 1949—the gross revenue for the latter year being \$95,957,469, an all-time high.

## Section 1.—Post Office Statistics

Tables 1, 2 and 3 give the number of post offices in operation together with revenues and expenditures for the past few years.

1.—Post Offices in Operation, by Provinces, as at Mar. 31, 1945-49

Province or Territory	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	114	115	109	108	105
Nova Scotia.....	1,475	1,465	1,441	1,396	1,362
New Brunswick.....	991	983	965	949	922
Quebec.....	2,594	2,586	2,577	2,582	2,567
Ontario.....	2,566	2,557	2,562	2,578	2,590
Manitoba.....	795	794	791	802	806
Saskatchewan.....	1,466	1,443	1,429	1,420	1,418
Alberta.....	1,216	1,209	1,195	1,188	1,186
British Columbia.....	914	914	923	920	933
Yukon.....	16	16	15	15	15
Northwest Territories.....	22	23	23	24	26
<b>Canada.....</b>	<b>12,169</b>	<b>12,105</b>	<b>12,033</b>	<b>11,982</b>	<b>11,930</b>