

Because of its widespread facilities, it has been found expedient for the Post Office to assist other Government Departments in the performance of certain tasks which include: the sale of unemployment insurance stamps; the sale of Government annuities; the sale of radio licences; the distribution of income tax forms and Civil Service application forms and the display of Government posters.

Organization.—The Canada Post Office is divided into two parts: the Operating Service; and the Post Office Department, as headquarters at Ottawa is called. The Operating Service is organized into five regions each under a Regional Director, who is the field representative of the Deputy Postmaster General. There are four Headquarters Branches, viz., Administration, Operations, Communications and Financial, each under a Director.

Operating and secretarial features in the operating field affecting the Post Office and local mail services in urban centres are taken care of by the local postmaster. District Office functions relating to services in the district, and all inspections and investigations, are under District Post Office Inspectors situated at strategic centres across the country.

Postal service is provided in Canada from Newfoundland to the west coast of Vancouver Island, and from Pelee Island, Ont. (the most southerly point of Canada), to settlements and missions far within the Arctic.

Canada's air-mail system provides several flights daily from east to west and constitutes a great air artery from St. John's, Nfld., to Victoria, B.C., intersected with branch lines and connecting lines radiating to every quarter, and linking up with the United States air-mail system. Since July 1, 1948, all first-class domestic mail up to and including one ounce in weight has been carried by 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 22,000 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 48,000,000. The railway mail service employs a staff of 1,386 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 delivery organization provides direct postal facilities to residents in the rural sections of the country: approximately 5,100 rural mail routes are in operation involving 117,000 route miles and serving 370,000 rural mail boxes. Rural mail routes are generally circular in pattern and average about 23 miles in length. Some 4,700 side services are in operation to transport mail between post offices, railway stations, steamer wharves and airports, while 3,200 stage services operate to convey mail to and from post offices not located on railway lines. In larger towns and cities there are approximately 500 city mail services transporting mails to and from sub post offices and postal stations, collecting mails from street letter boxes and delivering parcel post. In all, approximately 14,000 land mail service couriers are employed and travel in the neighbourhood of 50,000,000 miles annually. Land mail services are performed under a contract system. Contracts are awarded to the lowest competent tenderer who is paid according to his tender and who must provide all the requisite equipment.