

Post offices are established for the transaction of all kinds of postal business at places where the population warrants. The post office is a complete entity in rural districts and smaller urban centres. In the larger towns and cities there is a main post office and, if size of population calls for extra services, postal stations and sub-post offices are operated. Letter-carrier delivery is given in 126 cities and towns by about 5,000 uniformed letter carriers.

Postal stations are maintained on the same lines as the main post offices and perform full postal business, including general-delivery service and a post-office lock-box delivery as well as letter-carrier delivery service, accommodating the surrounding district.

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 collection of Government annuity payments, the sale of radio licences, the distribution of income tax forms, 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 Headquarters at Ottawa. 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 offices 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 by 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 expedited. Air-stage service provides the sole means of communication with the outside for many areas in the hinterland. There were approximately 24,000 miles of air-mail and air-stage routes in Canada in 1952 as compared with 22,000 miles in 1951.

The principal means of mail transportation is the railway-mail service, which operates along about 40,000 miles of track and, in 1952, covered over 47,000,000 of track mileage (exceeding 57,000,000 in 1951). The railway mail service employed a staff of 1,343 mail clerks in 1952 (1,381 in 1951). This staff prepares the mails for prompt delivery and dispatch 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.

The rural mail delivery organization provides direct postal facilities to residents in the rural sections of the country: approximately 5,200 rural mail routes were in operation in 1952, involving about 120,750 route miles and serving 397,084 rural mail boxes (384,906 in 1951). Rural mail routes are generally circular in pattern