

and average about 23 miles in length. A development during 1950-51 was a system of rural mail inspections carried out by Supervisory Postmasters. About 4,700 side services were in operation in 1952, as compared to 4,500 in 1951, to transport mail between post offices, railway stations, steamer wharves and air ports, while 3,050 stage services operated to convey mail to and from post offices not located on railway lines. In 1952 there were approximately 500 city mail services, as against 700 in 1951, transporting mails to and from post offices, postal stations and sub-post offices, collecting mails from street letter-boxes and delivering parcel post. In all, about 13,450 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, the contracts being awarded to the person submitting the lowest tender and competent to provide all the requisite equipment.

In 1952, the Canadian postal service delivered an estimated 3,000,000,000 items of mail—a decrease from the 3,012,000,000 items delivered in the previous year. The service makes use of such mechanical handling devices as conveyers, chutes, sorting machines, stamp 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 last 10 years. From \$55,477,159 in 1942, gross revenue has increased year by year to \$122,266,675 by Mar. 31, 1952—an all-time high.

Section 1.—Post Office Statistics

Tables 1, 2 and 3 give the numbers of post offices in operation together with revenue and expenditure for the past few years.

1.—Post Offices in Operation, by Provinces, as at Mar. 31, 1949-52

Province or Territory	1949	1950	1951	1952
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland.....	550	553	573	592
Prince Edward Island.....	105	105	105	105
Nova Scotia.....	1,362	1,315	1,278	1,245
New Brunswick.....	922	909	874	837
Quebec.....	2,567	2,560	2,545	2,530
Ontario.....	2,590	2,586	2,602	2,598
Manitoba.....	806	809	823	823
Saskatchewan.....	1,418	1,404	1,407	1,397
Alberta.....	1,186	1,184	1,179	1,179
British Columbia.....	933	952	958	955
Yukon Territory.....	15	15	15	13
Northwest Territories.....	26	26	31	31
Canada.....	12,480	12,418	12,390	12,305