

Quebec, Three Rivers and Montreal; in 1734 a post road was constructed over the same route and post houses, complete with post horses and vehicles, were established for the use of travellers. In 1851, the control of their post offices was assumed by the different provinces of British North America and at Confederation these systems merged to form the Canada Post Office.

**Functions.**—The basic task of the Canadian Postal Service is the handling and transmission of postal matter—letters, parcels, newspapers, magazines, etc.—and in discharging this duty it maintains a wide variety of services—post offices and air, railway, land and water transportation facilities.

This basic task involves many associated functions which include the sale of postage stamps and other articles of postage; the furnishing of information to the public respecting postage rates and other postal matters; the registration of letters and other articles of mail; the insuring of parcels; the acceptance of C.O.D. articles for mail and dispatch; the sorting, making up and dispatching of ordinary and registered-mail to other offices; the sorting and delivery of incoming mail of all kinds; and the transaction of money-order and Post Office Savings Bank business.

All functions of the Postal Service, as far as the public is concerned, are centred in the post offices, of which 12,202 were in operation at Mar. 31, 1954, as against 12,259 at the same date in 1953. Postage paid in 1953-54 by means of postage stamps amounted to \$64,546,067 (\$67,182,548 in 1953). Post-office money orders are issued for any amount up to and including \$100 at more than 7,000 post offices, for payment in almost every country in the world as well as in Canada. Orders payable in Canada only, for amounts under \$16, are issued at more than 4,000 additional post offices. Post Office Savings Banks are in operation in all parts of the country and, on Mar. 31, 1954, had total deposits of \$37,792,914.

Post offices are established for the transaction of all kinds of postal business wherever 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 130 cities and towns by over 5,300 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 that include the sale of unemployment insurance stamps, the collection of Government annuity payments, 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 Headquarters at Ottawa. The Operating Service is organized into five regions each under a Regional Director, who is the field representative of