

the Deputy Postmaster General. There are five Headquarters Branches, viz., Administration, Operations, Transportation, Financial, and Personnel, 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 Directors of Postal Services in 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 inhabited point of Canada), to settlements and missions far within the Arctic.

Canada's air-mail system provides several transcontinental flights daily 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. On Apr. 1, 1954, this service was extended to first-class items up to and including eight ounces in weight. Air-stage service provides the sole means of communication with the outside for many areas in the hinterland. There were approximately 29,640 miles of air-mail and air-stage routes in Canada in 1954 as compared with 29,500 miles in 1953.

The principal means of mail transportation is the railway mail service which operates along about 40,000 miles of track and, in 1954, covered over 47,000,000 track miles. The railway mail service employed a staff of 1,317 mail clerks in 1954. 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 5,280 rural mail routes were in operation in 1954, involving about 125,000 route miles and serving 424,000 rural mail boxes. Rural mail routes are generally circular in pattern and average about 24 miles in length. About 4,300 side services were in operation in 1954 to transport mail between post offices, railway stations, steamer wharves, and airports, and 2,993 stage services operated to convey mail to and from post offices not located on railway lines. In 1954, there were approximately 750 city mail services, transporting mail to and from post offices, postal stations and sub-post offices, collecting mail from street letter-boxes and delivering parcel post. In all, about 13,000 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, the contracts being awarded to the person submitting the lowest tender and competent to provide all the requisite equipment.

The increase in postal business is one of the impressive features of Canada's economic development during the past ten years. From \$59,175,138 in 1943, gross revenue has increased year by year to \$129,889,325 by Mar. 31, 1954, an all-time high.