

A privately owned broadcasting station is required to pay to the Receiver General of Canada an annual licence fee based on the gross revenue for licence fee computation for the fiscal year of the station. Because the fiscal years of the privately owned stations end at different dates it is difficult to estimate the gross revenue of all stations for any one year; however the estimated gross revenue for the calendar year 1954 was approximately \$29,500,000. This revenue is obtained from commercial advertising.

The first privately owned television broadcasting station in Canada was authorized to commence scheduled broadcasting on Oct. 20, 1953. It was located at Sudbury, Ont. By Nov. 1, 1955 there were in operation 22 privately owned stations (see Table 6).

International Agreements.—In 1937 a conference was held at Havana, Cuba, for the purpose of reviewing the entire broadcasting situation in the North American region for the purpose of developing a workable plan which would permit the growth of the broadcasting industry. The product resulting from the deliberations of that conference was the treaty known as the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement which came into effect in 1941 and was extended by an instrument known as the *modus vivendi* or interim agreement signed at Washington in 1946. In 1949 and 1950 conferences were held at Montreal and Washington, and a new North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement was drafted in December 1950 which has been implemented as an administrative arrangement.

The Canadian-United States Television Agreement provides for the assignment and utilization of 82 television channels between 54 and 890 mc/s along the border between Canada and the United States of America, within an area of 250 miles on either side of the boundary. This Agreement provides that all station assignments within its scope shall be made in accordance with the Agreement and shall have an effective radiated signal in any vertical or azimuthal plane not in excess of 100 kw. for Channels 2 to 6, 325 kw. for Channels 7 to 13 and 1,000 kw. for Channels 14 to 83.

PART IV.—THE POST OFFICE

The Canada Post Office Department was created at the time of Confederation in 1867 by the Canada Post Office Act to superintend and manage the postal service of Canada under the direction of a Postmaster General. For almost a century before Confederation, postal services in the Canadian provinces had been controlled by the British Postmaster General and administered by his deputies. Under the French régime a courier service had been organized as early as 1703 between 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 COD 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 12,138 were in operation at Mar. 31, 1955 as against 12,202 at the same date in 1954. Postage paid in 1954-55 by means of postage stamps amounted to \$74,583,720 (\$64,546,067 in 1954). Post office money orders are issued for any amount