

Functions.—The basic tasks of the Canadian Postal Service are to receive, convey and deliver postal matter with security and dispatch. In discharging these duties it maintains post offices and utilizes air, railway, land and water transportation facilities. Associated functions include the sale of stamps and other articles of postage, the registration of letters and other mail for dispatch, the insuring of parcels, the accounting for COD articles, and the transaction of money order and Post Office Savings Bank business. 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 including the sale of unemployment insurance stamps, the collection of government annuity payments, the distribution of income tax forms and Civil Service employment application forms, and the display of government posters.

Post offices are established wherever the population warrants. Those in rural areas and small urban centres transact all of the functions of the city office. In larger urban areas postal stations and sub-post offices have full functions similar to the main post office, including a general delivery service, lock-box delivery and letter-carrier delivery.

At Mar. 31, 1959, there were 11,634 post offices in operation compared with 11,768 in 1958. Letter-carrier delivery, performed in 152 urban centres, employed over 6,690 uniformed letter carriers. Postage paid in 1958-59 by means of postage stamps amounted to \$82,008,654 as compared with \$81,192,007 in 1958. Post office money orders, issued for any amount not exceeding \$100 and payable in almost any country of the world, were sold at more than 8,000 post offices and money orders payable in Canada only, for amounts not exceeding \$16, were sold at some 2,800 additional post offices. Post Office Savings Banks operate in all parts of the country and, on Mar. 31, 1959, had total deposits of \$34,155,617.

Organization.—The Canada Post Office includes an Operating Service and Headquarters at Ottawa. The Operating Service is organized into four regions, each under a Regional Director who is the field representative of the Deputy Postmaster General. There are seven Headquarters Branches: Administration, Operations, Transportation, Comptroller's Branch, Engineering and Development, 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 into the Arctic. Canada's airmail 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 airmail 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 only means of communication for many areas in the hinterland. There were approximately 39,633 miles of airmail and air stage routes in Canada in 1959 as compared with 38,334 miles in 1958.

The principal means of mail transportation is the railway mail service that operates along about 26,530 miles of track and, in 1959, covered over 37,525,000 service-miles. A staff of 792 mail clerks prepared the mails for prompt delivery and dispatch while en route in the railway mail cars.

The rural mail delivery organization provided direct postal service over approximately 5,521 rural mail routes in 1959, extending over 135,000 route-miles and serving 494,865 rural mail boxes. Rural mail routes are generally circular in pattern and average about 24.9 miles in length. Considerable progress has been made towards the development of mail service by means of group boxes—a service intended for the more densely populated rural areas and for suburban residents not within the area of letter-carrier