

The first sound broadcasting in Canada took place when a privately owned communications company in Montreal was authorized to transmit programs on an experimental basis during the latter part of 1918 and in the winter evenings of 1919 over its Station XWA. Under the first licensing regulations in the year ended Mar. 31, 1923, 34 licences were issued. On Feb. 1, 1962, the number was 243, of which 207 were AM standard band stations, 30 were FM stations and six were shortwave stations.

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.

The first privately owned television broadcasting station in Canada, located at Sudbury, Ont., was authorized to commence scheduled broadcasting on Oct. 20, 1953. By Mar. 1, 1962, 59 privately owned television stations were in operation (see Table 11).

## Section 2.—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, Trois Rivières 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 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, 1961, there were 11,421 post offices in operation compared with 11,497 in 1960. Letter-carrier delivery, performed in 180 urban centres, employed over 7,900 uniformed letter carriers. Postage paid in 1960-61 by means of postage stamps amounted to \$85,807,987 as compared with \$83,961,344 in 1960. 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 8,400 post offices and money orders payable in Canada only, for amounts not exceeding \$16, were sold at some 2,300 additional post offices. Post Office Savings Banks operate in all parts of the country and, on Mar. 31, 1961, had total deposits of \$28,512,786.