

Mechanization.—The larger post offices in Canada may be described as intricate industrial plants where mail is unloaded, cancelled, transported and shipped by semi-automatic means. Conveyor belts, automatic chutes and other devices increase output of mail matter without increasing staff and all the larger offices now being constructed are provided with the latest mechanical equipment. Even the letter carrier has been mechanized in some areas—the use of the mailmobile (part motorcycle and part truck) has shown that even the traditional door-to-door method of delivering mail can be improved upon. In most cities, postage stamps may be obtained at any time from automatic vending machines which offer a variety of denominations in neat packages. This service has been followed by the development of a curbside mail receptacle (snorkel) in which patrons may deposit mail without leaving their automobiles. Electronic methods have been introduced for the checking of money orders and for accounting for the \$900,000,000 annually that they represent. Money order forms have been redesigned to improve handling and reduce costs.

Post Office Statistics.—Tables 15 and 16 give the numbers of post offices in operation, together with revenue and expenditure for recent years.

15.—Post Offices in Operation, by Province, as at Mar. 31, 1957-61

Province or Territory	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland.....	640	641	647	649	654
Prince Edward Island.....	105	105	104	104	106
Nova Scotia.....	1,117	1,096	1,031	964	901
New Brunswick.....	703	676	634	597	568
Quebec.....	2,435	2,413	2,405	2,403	2,408
Ontario.....	2,627	2,616	2,624	2,629	2,651
Manitoba.....	817	810	814	809	809
Saskatchewan.....	1,218	1,310	1,298	1,279	1,276
Alberta.....	1,124	1,112	1,089	1,082	1,071
British Columbia.....	940	937	932	922	916
Yukon Territory.....	16	16	19	20	20
Northwest Territories.....	37	36	37	39	41
Canada.....	11,879	11,768	11,634	11,497	11,421

16.—Revenue and Expenditure of the Post Office Department, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1952-61

NOTE.—Figures from 1868 will be found in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1911 edition.

Year	Gross Revenue	Net Revenue ¹	Expenditure ²	Surplus (+) or Deficit (-)
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1952.....	122,278,761 ^r	104,634,294 ^r	97,973,263	+6,661,031 ^r
1953.....	129,388,365	112,024,245	105,553,191	+6,471,054
1954.....	129,889,325	111,107,484	113,581,752	-2,474,268
1955.....	151,717,273	131,315,049	123,611,055	+7,703,994
1956.....	158,568,356	137,696,621	127,421,739	+10,274,882
1957.....	167,879,869	145,823,785	139,992,921	+5,830,864
1958.....	177,492,783	152,919,881	153,319,782	-399,901
1959.....	183,380,508	157,630,336	157,803,478	-173,142
1960.....	193,659,715 ^r	167,629,053 ^r	165,792,339	+1,836,714 ^r
1961.....	202,003,790	173,645,658	178,371,716	-4,726,058

¹ Gross revenue less commissions and allowances to postmasters, and other small items.

² Excludes rental of semi-staff and staff post offices.