

Section 2.—The Post Office

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, 1962 there were 11,401 post offices in operation compared with 11,421 in 1961. Letter-carrier delivery, performed in 180 urban centres, employed over 8,400 uniformed letter carriers. Postage paid in 1961-62 by means of postage stamps amounted to \$88,573,175 as compared with \$85,807,987 in 1960-61. 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 8,800 post offices and money orders payable in Canada only, for amounts not exceeding \$15.99, were sold at some 1,900 additional post offices. Post Office Savings Banks operate in all parts of the country and, on Mar. 31, 1962, had deposits totalling \$27,365,119.

The Operating Service of the Post Office Department is organized into 14 Districts, each under a District Director. Ten of the Districts report directly to the Assistant Deputy Postmaster General. In addition, there are two Regions, each consisting of two Districts and a major Post Office, under a Regional Director. These also report to the Assistant Deputy Postmaster General who has the responsibility of conducting the normal field operations of the Postal Service. The operating and support functions required in the provision of postal service to the public are the responsibility of the local postmasters who receive technical and administrative assistance from District Offices located at strategic points.

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, intersected by branch and connecting lines radiating to every quarter and linking up with the United States airmail system. All first-class domestic mail up to and including eight ounces in weight is carried by air between one Canadian point and another, whenever delivery can thus be expedited. Air stage service provides the only means of communication for many areas in the hinterland. There were approximately 43,175 miles of airmail and air stage routes in Canada in 1962 compared with 41,825 miles in 1961. However, the railways are the principal means of mail transport; the railway mail service operates along 21,670 miles of track and, in 1962, covered more than 35,050,000 service-miles. A staff of 619 mail clerks prepared the mails for delivery and dispatch while en route in railway mail cars.

The rural mail delivery organization provided direct postal service over approximately 5,637 rural mail routes in 1962, extending over 145,493 route-miles and serving 550,703 rural mail boxes. Rural mail routes are generally circular in pattern and average about 26 miles in length. About 1,913 side services were in operation to transport mail between post offices, railway stations, steamer wharves and airports, and 1,904 stage services operated to convey mail to and from post offices not located on railway lines. Transportation