

Organization.—The Canada Post Office is divided into two parts: the Operating Service and Headquarters at Ottawa. The Operating Service is organized into five regions each under a Regional Director, who is the field representative of the Deputy Postmaster General. There are four Headquarters Branches, viz., Administration, Operations, Transportation and Financial, 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 Post Office Inspectors situated at 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 point of Canada), to settlements and missions far within the Arctic.

Canada's air-mail system provides several flights daily from east to west 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 air-mail 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. Air-stage service provides the sole means of communication with the outside for many areas in the hinterland. There were approximately 29,500 miles of air-mail and air-stage routes in Canada in 1953 as compared with 24,000 miles in 1952.

The principal means of mail transportation is the railway mail service which operates along about 40,000 miles of track and, in 1953, covered over 47,380,000 of track mileage. The railway mail service employed a staff of 1,332 mail clerks in 1953. This staff prepares the mails for prompt delivery and dispatch while *en route* in the railway mail cars. Like its air-mail service, Canada's railway mail service is one of the most extensive in the world.

The rural mail delivery organization provides direct postal facilities to residents in the rural sections of the country: approximately 5,240 rural mail routes were in operation in 1953, involving about 120,950 route miles and serving 404,277 rural mail boxes. Rural mail routes are generally circular in pattern and average about 23 miles in length. About 4,700 side services were in operation in 1953 to transport mail between post offices, railway stations, steamer wharves and air ports, while 3,050 stage services operated to convey mail to and from post offices not located on railway lines. In 1953, there were approximately 500 city mail services, transporting mails to and from post offices, postal stations and sub-post offices, collecting mails from street letter-boxes and delivering parcel post. In all, about 13,450 land mail service couriers are employed and travel in the neighbourhood of 50,000,000 miles annually. Land mail services are performed under a contract system, the contracts being awarded to the person submitting the lowest tender and competent to provide all the requisite equipment.

The increase in postal business is one of the impressive features of Canada's economic development during the past ten years. From \$55,477,159 in 1942, gross revenue has increased year by year to \$129,388,365 by Mar. 31, 1953, an all-time high.