

up to and including \$100 at more than 7,000 post offices, for payment in almost every country in the world as well as in Canada. Orders payable in Canada only, for amounts under \$16, are issued at more than 4,000 additional post offices. Post Office Savings Banks are in operation in all parts of the country and on Mar. 31, 1955 had total deposits of \$36,780,666.

Post offices are established for the transaction of all kinds of postal business wherever the population warrants. The post office is a complete entity in rural districts and smaller urban centres. In the larger towns and cities there is a main post office and, if size of population calls for extra services, postal stations and sub-post offices are operated. Letter carrier delivery is given in 132 cities and towns by over 5,800 uniformed letter carriers. Postal stations are maintained on the same lines as the main post offices and perform full postal business, including general delivery service and a post office lock-box delivery as well as letter carrier delivery service accommodating the surrounding district.

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 that include the sale of unemployment insurance stamps, the collection of Government annuity payments, the distribution of income tax forms, Civil Service employment application forms and the display of Government posters.

Organization.—The Canada Post Office includes an 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 five Headquarters Branches: Administration, Operations, Transportation, 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 within 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 sole means of communication with the outside for many areas in the hinterland. There were approximately 30,000 miles of airmail and air stage routes in Canada in 1955 as compared with 29,640 miles in 1954.

The principal means of mail transportation is the railway mail service which operates along about 40,000 miles of track and, in 1954, covered over 47,000,000 track miles. The railway mail service employed a staff of 1,296 mail clerks to prepare the mails for prompt delivery and dispatch while *en route* in the railway mail cars. Like its airmail 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 5,322 rural mail routes were in operation in 1955, involving over 125,000 route miles and serving 438,252 rural mail boxes. Rural mail routes are generally circular in pattern and average about 24 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 delivery service. About 4,000 side services were in operation in 1955 to transport mail between post offices, railway stations, steamer wharves and airports, and 2,770 stage services operated to convey mail to and from post offices not located on railway lines. Transportation of mail by motor