

etc. From the post-offices along these routes local posts are dispatched to the various districts with the mail. But during summer the horse-caravans are now rapidly being replaced by motor vehicles, which in the vicinity of Reykjavík and in the southern lowlands are frequently run all the year round.

As coasting has improved, the inter-provincial mail is in an ever increasing degree being sent by sea to the various ports. The government coaster, as already mentioned, now makes 17 trips a year round the coasts (from the middle of February to the end of the year), and many steamers, plying between Iceland and foreign countries, regularly call at a number of ports to receive and deliver postal matter. But the mail connexion between the ports and the interior is still unsatisfactory, except where regular automobile service has been established.

In 1928 there were in Iceland 477 post offices open. During that year 1339 thousand ordinary letters and postcards were dispatched; 1001 thousand newspaper packets and other printed matter; and 91 thousand other parcels. Furthermore, there were delivered 19 thousand money-letters, to the amount of 6.6 million krónur; 7 thousand registered parcels, to a sum of 3.1 million krónur; 48 thousand trade charge money orders; and 73 thousand postal orders, to the total value of 9.6 million krónur.

In 1906 a *submarine cable* was laid from the Shetland Isles, through the Faroes, to Seyðisfjörður on the east coast of Iceland. *Det store nordiske Telegrafsekskab* (The Great Northern Telegraph Company) in Denmark who laid the cable (with grants from the Icelandic and Danish treasuries) secured the sole right of operating it for twenty years. This privilege expired in 1926, but has now been extended for another eight years.

At the time when the cable was laid, there were no telegraphs or telephones in the country, except the Reykjavík local exchange and a line between Hafnarfjörður and Reykjavík; but a telegraph line was constructed from Seyðisfjörður to Reykjavík, and telephone lines are steadily being added. All trunk lines are constructed by the State, the local lines partly at the expense of the districts concerned. The telegraph (excluding the submarine cable) and telephone services, interprovincial as well as local, are carried on by the State. On December 31<sup>st</sup> 1928 there were 260 ordinary telegraph stations and 6 wireless ones. The telegraphs and telephones had a total length of 3272 kilometres, the length of wires being 9738 kilometres; during that year a total of 266 thousand telegrams were dealt