

The following statistics shew the extent of postal operations in British Columbia from 1862 to 1866:—

Year.	No. of Offices.	No Miles Post Roads.	No. Miles Mail Travel.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	No. of Letters.	No. of Papers.
1862.....	7	\$1,875	\$23,875
1863.....	8	500	94,000	7,500	16,500	22,000	14,000
1864.....	13	...	100,000	11,000	27,000	30,000	12,000
1865.....	16	...	150,000	13,000	41,000	33,000	10,000
1866.....	17	750	100,000	9,525	35,160	30,000	11,000

In 1864 a uniform rate of postage was charged on letters and papers of 12½ cents and the revenue increased about 50 per cent. In 1865 the mails were despatched more frequently, and the mileage was increased. This change had also the effect of increasing the revenue, but as the expenditure was also considerably more, it was found expedient again to reduce the number of trips from New Westminster to the mining districts from twice to once per week. From this cause, although the expenditure for 1866 had advanced \$3,000 beyond what it was in 1864, when the number of miles of mail travel was the same, yet the revenue fell below what it had been before the change took place by \$1,500.

The number of letters as given above do not shew the real amount of correspondence in the Colony as the express companies carry about half as many more as are forwarded by the post office. The rates of postage on these are, however, the same as on those forwarded by mail, and the amount thus collected is handed over to the Government.

The above statistical returns do not include Vancouver's Island which has hitherto been under its own local control, but from the beginning of 1867—the returns for which year have not yet come to hand—the postal affairs of Vancouver and British Columbia will merge into one. The postal revenue of Vancouver's Island is estimated at between \$12,000 and \$13,000.

The Post Office in this colony suffers very much, as it necessarily does in all new countries, from the bad state of the roads throughout a great part of the year, want of bridges and the sparseness of the population, which is the greater because, the gold regions being in the interior, settlers are drawn away from the sea coast before the lands near the shores are taken up. Another drawback is that of having no direct or regular communication with Great Britain, or any other country. Steamers ply somewhat regularly to San Francisco, but at this point all regularity ceases, sometimes the mails are taken on by private ship, sometimes by an occasional steamer, and at others by one of Her Majesty's cruisers. A contract was entered into for the conveyance of mails over this part of the route in 1867, by the authorities at Vancouver's Island, but their inability to continue the subsidy terminated this arrangement. Negotiations are, however, in progress, which it is hoped may be brought to a satisfactory issue.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

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Letter Postage.

On letters circulating within the Island, the postage (if pre-paid) is 2d, per ½ oz.; if unpaid, 4d, To the Province of Nova Scotia (if pre-paid) 3d.; if unpaid, 6d. To the Provinces of New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec, 3d., pre-payment optional. United States, 6d. per ½ oz. California and Oregon, 9d. To the United Kingdom, not exceeding ½ oz., if pre-paid, 9d.; if unpaid, a fine of 9d. will be charged additional on delivery, if sent by Canadian Steamer. By Royal Mail Steamer via United States, 8d. stg. per ½ oz. if pre-paid; if unpaid, 6d. stg. additional. To Bermuda, Newfoundland and British West Indies, 9d.—3d. of which must be pre-paid. New Zealand, Australia, or Ind'a, 1s. 4½d.; pre-payment compulsory.

Book Post.

Books may be forwarded to the United Kingdom at the following rates:—

Under 4 ozs.....	4½d.	Over 8 ozs. and under 1 lb.....	1s. 6d.
Over 4 ozs. and under 8 ozs.....	9d.	and 9d. additional every 8 ozs.	

Printed matter, Prices Current, and Hand-bills, 1d. per oz.

Printed Circulars in envelopes, under 1 oz, weight, 1d. each, must be pre-paid.

Newspapers.

Newspapers to the United Kingdom, free. Newspapers for Newfoundland, Bermuda, and the West India Islands, and Foreign Countries, must be pre-paid 1d. stg. each; on those to India and Australia, 2d. stg. each, must be pre-paid.

Parcel Post.

Parcels may be forwarded at the following rates:—

Under 1 lb.....	1s. 3d.	Exceeding 2 lbs., and under 3 lbs.....	3s. 9d.
Exceeding 1 lb., and under 2 lbs.....	2s. 6d.	Registration Fee.....	3d.

The parcel must be posted under the following conditions:—No parcel must exceed 3 lbs. in weight or 1 foot in length; the postage must be pre-paid by stamps; the words "By Parcel Post" must be plainly written on the outside. No letters can be enclosed. When the name and address of the