

325. All the States of Europe and America, some countries of Asia and Africa, and all the British Colonies and Possessions, except Australasia (including Tasmania and New Zealand), and South Africa, are now included in the Union.

326. The following table gives the number of post offices in the Dominion, and the estimated number of letters and post cards sent in each year from 1868 to 1885, together with the number per head:—

NUMBER of Post Offices; estimated number of Letters and Post Cards sent, 1868 to 1885; also, number of Letters per head.

Year ended 30th June.	Number of Post Offices.	Estimated Number Sent.				Number of Letters per Head.
		Registered Letters.	Free Letters.	Total Letters Posted.	Post Cards.	
1868.....	3,638	704,750	733,100	18,100,000	.....	5·37
1869.....	3,756	850,000	874,000	21,920,000	.....	6·42
1870.....	3,820	1,000,000	1,034,000	24,500,000	.....	7·09
1871.....	3,943	1,100,000	1,218,000	*27,050,000	.....	7·69
1872.....	4,135	1,280,000	1,125,000	*30,600,000	.....	8·47
1873.....	4,518	1,377,000	1,091,000	*34,579,000	.....	9·43
1874.....	4,706	1,562,900	1,432,200	*39,358,500	.....	10·28
1875.....	4,892	1,750,000	1,290,000	*42,000,000	.....	10·81
1876.....	5,015	1,774,000	1,059,292	41,800,000	4,646,000	10·58
1877.....	5,161	1,842,000	1,096,000	41,510,000	5,450,000	10·34
1878.....	5,378	1,980,000	1,250,000	44,000,000	6,455,000	10·78
1879.....	5,606	1,940,000	1,384,000	43,900,000	6,940,000	10·59
1880.....	5,773	2,040,000	1,464,000	45,800,000	7,800,000	10·86
1881.....	5,935	2,253,000	1,838,000	48,170,000	9,640,000	11·08
1882.....	6,171	2,450,000	2,390,000	53,200,000	11,300,000	12·68
1883.....	6,395	2,650,000	2,600,000	62,800,000	12,940,000	13·90
1884.....	6,837	3,000,000	2,834,000	66,100,000	13,580,000	14·35
1885.....	7,084	3,060,000	2,960,000	68,400,000	13,800,000	14·57

\*Including post cards.

327. From the number of post offices in 1885, it will be seen that they had almost doubled since 1867. In that year there were 3,638, and in 1885 there were