

329. In the figures in the first column for the years 1868 to 1877 inclusive, are included all newspapers and periodicals sent by mail, both from the office of publication and otherwise. In 1877 a change in the regulations was made, and all newspapers and periodicals, &c., sent from the office of publication, were carried at the rate of 1 cent per lb. In the first year following the change, viz., 1878, there were carried 3,720,408 lbs. weight of newspapers, and in the eleven months ending 31st May, 1882, there were carried 4,853,000 lbs., an increase of 1,134,592 lbs. in not quite four years. On 1st June, 1882, an Act exempting them entirely from postage came into force, and since then they have been carried free. It is not possible, therefore, to give the correct number carried in the years subsequent to 1877, but it is probably now about sixty millions annually. The number of parcels sent has increased during the whole period by 575,200, and of samples, circulars, &c., (since 1876) by 5,960,000. The total number of newspapers sent by mail, books, samples and parcels, was 949,000 more in 1885 than in the preceding year, a much smaller increase than that of 1884 over 1883, which was 2,322,000. Estimating the number of newspapers sent from the office of publication at sixty millions, and adding that number to the other total, the number of newspapers, periodicals, &c. per head of population, sent in 1885, was 17.

330. In the year 1851 the number of letters sent in the Province of Canada (that is the two Provinces of Canada, East and West, or Ontario and Quebec as then united) was 2,132,000, the number of post offices was 601, the number of miles of post route was 7,595, and of annual mail travel 2,487,000 miles. In those days, during the winter season, the conveyance of a letter from Quebec to Ottawa took three days; to Kingston, four days; Toronto, seven days; Hamilton, eight days; London, nine days; and to Windsor, ten and a-half days.

331. Thirty years later, viz., in 1881, in the two Provinces of Ontario and Quebec combined, there were 3,640 post offices, the number of letters sent, exclusive of post cards, was 38,700,000, the number of miles of post route was 27,809, and of annual mail travel 15,461,587, while the time from Quebec to Ottawa was about 10 hours, to Toronto about 18 hours, and to Windsor about 27 hours. In 1851 the number of letters sent in the Province of Canada per head of population was only 1.15, in 1881 it was in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec 11.79 per head.

332. Subjoined is a table giving the estimated number of letters and post cards sent by the different Provinces in the last five years, together with the number of letters per head of the population of each Province:—