

Steamship Company have assisted in the service, about one passage in three being made by one of these vessels. In the first year of service, viz.: 1856, the average passage westward was 12 days 20½ hours, and eastward 11 days 2 hours.

356. The following particulars of the passages in 1867-68 and in 1884-85 will be interesting for comparison :—

## WINTER SEASON.

Year.	Average Passage to Liverpool.			Number of Passengers.	Barrel Bulk.	Average Passage to Portland.			Number of Passengers.	Tons of Freight.
	d.	h.	m.			d.	h.	m.		
1867-8.....	10	12	44	1,026	169,375	12	12	0	4,399	16,095
1884-5.....	8	18	45	2,432	* .....	To Halifax.		23	3,447	30,257

## SUMMER SEASON.

1868.....	9	20	34	5,044	241,877	To Quebec.		57	14,073	28,398
1885.....	8	10	50	7,224	589,672	8	22	56	9,825	52,702

\* The bulk of cargo was loaded at Portland and Baltimore.

357. The fastest passage from Quebec to Liverpool, in 1868, was made in 8d. 14h. 15m., and in 1885 in 7d. 19h. In the latter year the passage from Liverpool to Quebec was made in the same time, but as a general rule the eastward passages are the fastest.

358. The following table gives the total numbers of letters, postal cards and newspapers sent in the principal countries of the world, in either the year 1883 or 1884, according to the returns available, the latest estimated population for each country, as given in the Statesman's Year Book, 1886, has been used in ascertaining the number per head, and where not taken from official sources, the numbers of letters and newspapers have been taken from the same work.

359. The extraordinary quantity of mail matter sent by the Australasian Colonies, in proportion to their population, is worthy of observation. With the exception of the United Kingdom, Belgium, the German Empire, the Netherlands, the United States and Canada, the proportion per head is more than twice as high as that in any other country, and from the table, which has been added, giving the proportions in the several Colonies, it will be seen that their individual proportions are in most cases considerably higher. It is probably owing to the large number of tourists visiting Switzerland every year, that that country stands first on the list. Canada is seventh, and her position there shows a considerable advance in comparison with other countries, as in 1883 she was only eleventh on the list. It will be noticed that in proportion to population Canada sends more mail matter than the United States.