

United States were allowed to remain undisturbed, being of a more liberal and advantageous character than the ordinary regulations of the treaty.

355. The Universal Postal Union was formed at a meeting held at Berne in 1874, and the first treaty was signed on 9th October in that year; the countries represented being the several countries of Europe, the United States and Egypt. The object of the Union was to form all the countries of the world into one single postal territory, and to establish, as far as possible, uniform reduced rates of postage, and also to further the interchange of correspondence, by arranging that every country should be bound to convey the mails of other countries by its land or sea services at the lowest possible rates.

Formation of
Postal
Union.

356. At the meeting in 1878 the regulations were revised, and embodied in a Convention which came into force on 1st April, 1879. The Third Congress was held at Lisbon, in February, 1885, and Canada was represented by the delegates of the British Post Office. No material change was made in the Convention of 1879.

Meetings
of Postal
Union.

357. All the States of Europe and America, some countries of Asia and Africa, and all the British Colonies and Possessions, except the Australasian Colonies and South Africa, are now included in the Union.

Countries
that have
joined it.

358. The following table gives the number of post offices in the Dominion, and the estimated number and number per head of letters and post cards sent in each year, from 1st July, 1867, to 30th June, 1886:—

Number
of letters,
&c.—1867-
1886.