

Act that came into operation on the 1st June, 1882, all such newspapers were entirely exempted from postage, and have since been carried free of charge, and as no attempt is now made to ascertain the number so carried, the figures given for the years 1883 to 1886, inclusive, can only be considered as approximate. The increase in the number of books, circulars, &c., carried in 1886, as compared with the previous year, was very large, amounting to no less than 5,120,000.

Proportion of
post offices
to area.

362. In proportion to area the post offices are distributed as follow :—

Ontario.....	1 post office to	64 sq. miles.
Quebec	1 “	142 “
Nova Scotia.....	1 “	16 “
New Brunswick.....	1 “	26 “
Prince Edward Island.....	1 “	7 “
British Columbia.....	1 “	3,250 “
Manitoba, Keewatin and the Pro- visional Districts.	1 “	225 “

And the proportion to the total area is 1 office to 475 square miles. In the Australasian Colonies it is 1 to 636 square miles, in Great Britain 1 to 7 square miles, and in the United States 1 to 66 square miles.

Number
of letters,
&c., sent,
1882-1886,
by Pro-
vinces.

363. The numbers of letters and post cards sent in the several Provinces during the last five years, as estimated in the official reports, are given below :—