

376. The increase in the estimated number of registered letters sent in 1886 was very considerable, amounting to 320,000, while the decrease in the number that miscarried was also large. After deducting those lost by accidents which no system of registration could prevent, it will be found that only 1 in 39,534 letters registered went wrong through any apparently preventible action on the part of the officials. Of the 160 letters that miscarried, 74 were lost by railway and other accidents, and 86 stolen from post offices or from mails in transit.

Miscarriage of registered letters.

377. The numbers of letters and other articles sent to the Dead Letter Office in each year, since Confederation, are given below:—

Number of dead letters—1867-1886.

LETTERS, POST CARDS, CIRCULARS, BOOKS, PARCELS, &c.,  
RECEIVED AT THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE DURING  
THE YEARS 1868 TO 1886.

YEAR.	Total Number.	HOW DISPOSED OF.						
		Returned to other Countries.	Delivered or Forwarded to Address.	Returned to Writers.	Remaining in Office or with Post-master.	Failed of delivery, contained no value, destroyed.	Returned to printed Address	Returned to Government Department.
1868	312,220							
1869	307,889							
1870	324,291							
1871	335,508							
1872	380,810							
1873	426,886							
1874	508,160							
1875	572,127							
1876	587,376							
1877	563,484							
1878	630,847							
1879	540,429	49,952	12,645	195,689	558	262,464	19,119	
1880	592,385	63,755	12,546	219,728	1,380	270,764	19,622	4,590
1881	617,712	69,857	14,387	235,686	1,454	270,621	18,259	7,448
1882	658,762	76,820	12,083	279,566	2,258	264,122	19,166	4,744
1883	717,271	88,553	13,198	284,771	2,480	298,478	21,909	7,881
1884	764,731	106,843	24,124	275,497	2,269	321,229	25,254	9,515
1885	787,110	111,681	25,111	268,725	2,000	343,838	26,239	9,516
1886	753,489	97,556	25,744	258,491	14,155	320,953	26,769	9,821