

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.

330. 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.

331. 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.

332. A new agreement between the United States and Canada was signed at Washington on 12th January, 1888, to come into effect on the following 1st March and to supersede the agreement of February, 1875. The principal change in the agreement was the establishment of a parcel post between the two countries, subject to certain regulations for the protection of Customs with respect to articles liable for duty. All the principal provisions of the agreement of 1875 were retained.

New  
Postal  
agreement  
with  
the United  
States.

333. 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, 1887:—

Number  
of letters,  
&c., 1867-  
1887.