

Money order business with Italy.

358. The sum of \$102,855 has been sent by this means to Italy during the last three years, being considerably more than that sent to any other country. This is accounted for by the large number of Italian workmen that have been employed in this country, particularly in railway construction. Money orders are now issued in Canada on almost all British possessions, and on the principal foreign countries, either directly, or through London, England.

Ocean mail service.

359. The sum of \$126,533 was paid as a subsidy to the Montreal Ocean Steamship Company (Allan Line) for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1887, for the conveyance of mails to and from the United Kingdom. This mail service has been performed by this company continuously since May, 1856, until the close of 1885, since which time the "Vancouver" and "Oregon" of the Dominion 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.

Suggested fast service.

360. As the contract for the conveyance of mails with the Allan Line is about to expire, the Government have been asked to consider the advisability of increasing the subsidy, and providing for a line of steamers that will equal in speed, if not surpass those running to New York. It is believed by many that if this was done, a large amount of freight and passenger traffic might be directed from New York, and, in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway, a popular line of travel established between Great Britain, the East, and the Australasian colonies.

Comparisons of wages 1867 and 1887.

361. The following particulars of the passages in 1867-68 and in 1868-87 will be interesting for comparison:—