

wise. In 1877 a change was made in the regulations, and all newspapers, periodicals, &c., sent from the office of publication, were carried at the rate of 1 cent per lb., and the number carried has, since that date, been estimated in the above table at nine newspapers to one pound. By an 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 1888, inclusive, can only be considered as an approximate estimate, and there can hardly be any doubt that they are in reality much below the mark. There was, again, a considerable decrease in the number of books, circulars, &c., carried in 1889, as compared with the previous year, amounting to 75,700. The decrease in 1888 was 2,190,000. There was also a further decrease in the number of parcels sent of 244,500.

308. In proportion to area the post offices are distributed as follows :—

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------------|-------|------------|
| Prince Edward Island..... | 1 | post office to | 7 | sq. miles. |
| Nova Scotia..... | 1 | “ | 15 | “ |
| New Brunswick..... | 1 | “ | 25 | “ |
| Ontario..... | 1 | “ | 61 | “ |
| Quebec..... | 1 | “ | 132 | “ |
| Manitoba..... | 1 | “ | 175 | “ |
| British Columbia..... | 1 | “ | 2,370 | “ |
| The Territories..... | 1 | “ | 5,361 | “ |

Proportion of post offices to area of Provinces.

309. The number of letters and post cards sent in the several Provinces during the last five years, as estimated in the official reports, are given on the following page :—

Number of letters, &c., by Provinces, 1885-1889.