

SUMMER SEASON.

1868.	9 20 34	5,044	241,877	To Quebec. 10 15 57	14,073	28,398
1889-90	8 18 39	6,501	641,316	9 2 34	12,851	59,583

Fastest passages.

341. The fastest passage from Quebec to Liverpool in 1868 was made in 8 days 14 hours 15 minutes, and in 1890 in 7 days 21 hours 55 minutes. In the latter year the passage from Liverpool to Quebec was made in 7 days 18 hours 50 minutes, but the average of the eastward voyages was the highest during the season.

Number of letters sent in various countries.

342. The following table gives the numbers and number per head of letters and post cards sent in the principal countries of the world. The figures have been taken from the best available sources and the calculations have been made in this office. Attention is again called to the extraordinary quantity of mail matter sent in the Australasian Colonies. The Australasian trade is undoubtedly very large in proportion to population, and the correspondence may be expected to be equally great, but it does not seem likely that it should to such an extent exceed and be out of all proportion to that of any other civilized country, and the high figures are probably caused by some defect in the system of enumeration, by which duplication occurs, or it may be by a more perfect system than is in use elsewhere. The system adopted in Canada does not do justice to the correspondence of the country, as no notice whatever is taken of the large number of letters which come from foreign countries.