

revenue derived therefrom. The importance, however, of carrying out the principle of providing every part of the country with postal communication is so well recognized, that exception is seldom, if ever, taken to these deficits, it being well understood that, as the population increases and the country progresses, it cannot be very long before this service is at least self-sustaining, the revenue from the older and wealthier provinces covering the excess of expenditure in newer districts.

Number of stamps issued. 400. The number of stamps issued to postmasters during the year was 151,282,800, as compared with 145,450,900 in 1891, being an increase of 5,831,900, and almost the whole postal revenue is derived from this source, the amount received from the sale of stamps in 1892 having been \$3,356,741.

Postal operations compared, 1868-1892. 401. The following comparative statement shows not only the extended operations, but also the increased efficiency of the service since 1868, inasmuch as a much larger quantity of mail matter is carried at the same expense:—

POSTAL OPERATIONS IN CANADA COMPARED, 1868 AND 1892.

YEAR.	Number of Offices.	Number of Money Order Offices.	Miles of Post Route.	Miles Travelled.	Amount paid for conveyance of Mails.	Number of Letters, &c.	Number of Newspapers, &c.	Total Cost per Head.
1868 ...	3,638	515	27,674	10,622,216	543,109	18,100,000	18,884,800	\$ cts.
1892....	8,288	1,120	59,519	28,462,384	2,031,740	123,665,000	100,764,911	0 31 0 86

Cost of transmission, 1868 and 1892. 402. In 1868 the conveyance of mails over 10,622,216 miles cost per mile $5\frac{1}{10}$ cents, and the transmission of 36,984,800 letters, newspapers, &c., cost $1\frac{4}{10}$ cents apiece; in 1892 the conveyance of mails over 28,462,384 miles cost 7 cents per mile, and the transmission of 224,429,911 letters, newspapers, &c., $\frac{9}{10}$ of 1 cent apiece; so that there is a decrease in the cost of each article carried of about $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 cent; and it must not be overlooked that, if newspapers were carried now at the old rate of 1 cent per lb., a sum of probably not less than \$100,000 would be added to the revenue each year.

Free delivery of letters. 403. The system of free delivery of letters by carriers in the principal cities was commenced in 1875, and it was estimated that the total number delivered in this manner in 1892 was: letters, 33,938,944, and newspapers, 12,961,520. The number of carriers employed was 379.