

1131. During the past year 189 new offices were opened, and the total number of offices is now considerably more than double the number at Confederation, there having been an increase of 4,839. As compared with 1892, there was a decrease of 32,700 in the number of registered letters, and an increase of 117,000 in that of free letters, and 3,440,000 in the total number of letters sent. Considering that the privilege of free postage was taken away from members of the Dominion Civil Service, early in 1892, the increase in the number of free letters is surprising. The decrease in the number of registered letters is due, no doubt, to the increased registration fee. The increase in the total number of letters sent was rather less than in the previous year, but too much importance must not be attached to fluctuations in these figures, for, as the total number is derived from an average struck four times a year, it may well be that the circumstances prevailing at the times of enumeration have a tendency to abnormally increase or diminish the figures then obtained. The total number sent was nearly six times the number sent in the first year of Confederation; while the number of letters per head of estimated population is now almost four times what it was in 1868. Post cards, which were first issued in 1871, have now reached the large total of 22,790,000, the increase over 1892 being 1,975,000, as compared with an increase of 515,000 in 1892 over 1891.

1132. The next table gives the number of newspapers, books, periodicals and parcels sent during the same period:—

NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, BOOKS, CIRCULARS, PARCELS, &c.,  
1868 TO 1893.

YEAR ENDED. 30TH. JUNE.	Newspapers and Periodicals posted otherwise than from Office of Publication.	Newspapers and Periodicals posted from Office of Publication.	Books, Circulars. Samples and Patterns, &c.	Parcels.	Total.	Number per Head.
1868. . . . .	18,860,000	.....	.....	24,800	18,884,800	5·60
1869. . . . .	18,700,000	.....	.....	38,720	18,738,720	5·49
1870. . . . .	20,150,000	.....	.....	51,844	20,201,844	5·85
1871. . . . .	22,250,000	.....	.....	64,160	22,314,160	6·34
1872. . . . .	24,400,000	.....	.....	95,200	24,495,200	6·78
1873. . . . .	25,480,000	.....	.....	112,300	25,592,300	6·98
1874. . . . .	29,000,000	.....	.....	102,800	29,102,800	7·61
1875. . . . .	31,300,000	.....	.....	131,352	31,431,352	8·08
1876. . . . .	38,549,000	.....	4,539,912	70,724	43,159,636	10·09