

ate to the progress of settlement, it is, from time to time, necessary to establish offices, the expenditure for which must, for a number of years, be in excess of the 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 makes progress, a very long time cannot elapse before this service is at least self-sustaining, the revenue from the older and wealthier provinces covering the excess of expenditure in newer districts.

1139. The number of stamps, post bands, letter cards, post cards, &c., issued to postmasters during the year was 159,933,850, as compared with 151,282,800 in 1892, being an increase of 8,651,050, and almost the whole postal revenue is derived from this source, the amount received from the sale of stamps, post cards, letter cards, &c., in 1893 having been \$3,539,366.

1140. 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 WITH 1892  
AND 1893.

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. 0 31
1892...	8,288	1,120	59,519	28,462,384	2,031,740	123,665,000	100,764,911	0 86
1893...	8,475	1,168	61,832	30,495,723	2,101,952	129,080,000	93,340,116	0 88

1141. In 1868 the conveyance of mails over 10,622,216 miles cost per mile 5 1-10 cents, and the transmission of 36,984,800 letters, newspapers, &c., cost 1 4-10 cents apiece ; in 1893 the conveyance of mails over 30,495,723 miles cost 6 9-10 cents per mile, and the transmission of 222,420,116 letters, newspapers, &c., 9-10 of 1 cent apiece, so that there is a decrease in the cost of each article carried of about 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 pound, a sum of probably not less than \$100,000 would be added to the revenue each year.