

ively. Mails have been actually delivered in London by this route within 21 days from leaving Yokohama. By the Suez Canal the usual time is six weeks.

1157. A direct mail service between St. John, N.B., and Demerara and other West India islands, was established in January, 1890, the steamers being subsidized by the Canadian Government. The number of letters carried during the year was 11,722 ; papers, books, &c., 3,768 ; parcel post baskets and bags, 139. The establishment in June, 1893, of direct postal communication between Canada and Australia by means of a line of British steamships, calling at Honolulu and Fiji, nearly completes the chain of direct mail communication between the Dominion and the other parts of the British Empire. From the 8th June, 1893, to 20th October, 1893, the number of letters carried was 16,297 ; newspapers, 8,260 ; books and samples, 2,089.

1158. 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. The extraordinary quantity of mail matter sent in the Australasian colonies is very remarkable. 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.

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES AND OF LETTERS AND POST CARDS SENT IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

COUNTRIES.	Year.	Post Offices.	Number of Letters, &c., sent.	Letters, &c., per head.
<i>Europe.</i>				
Austria-Hungary	1892	9,055	674,000,310	16·3
Belgium	1892	829	156,447,186	25·8
Denmark	1891	803	49,543,000	22·8
France and Algeria	1891	7,449	820,022,671	19·3
German Empire.....	1892	27,644	1,608,786,870	32·5
Great Britain.....	*1891	19,625	2,034,650,000	53·0
Greece	1891	296	9,322,000	4·3
Italy.....	1892	5,917	220,937,943	7·1
Netherlands.....	1892	103,360,399	22·9
Portugal	1891	3,091	34,126,000	7·9
Russia	1891	6,557	218,009,949	2·0
Roumania.....	1892	352	20,433,195	4·0
Servia	1892	107	16,933,528	7·6

* Ending March.