

1322. The following table gives the number of post offices in the Dominion, and the estimated number, and number per head, of letters and post cards sent in each year, from 1st July, 1867, to 30th June, 1894:—

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES IN CANADA, AND ESTIMATED NUMBER, AND NUMBER PER HEAD, OF LETTERS AND POST CARDS SENT, 1868 TO 1894.

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE.	Number of Post Offices.	ESTIMATED NUMBER SENT.				Number of Letters per Head.
		Registered Letters.	Free Letters.	Total Letters Posted.	Post Cards.	
1868	3,638	704,750	733,000	18,100,000		5·37
1869	3,756	850,000	874,000	21,920,000		6·42
1870	3,820	1,000,000	1,034,000	24,500,000		7·09
1871	3,943	1,100,000	1,218,000	* 27,050,000		7·69
1872	4,135	1,280,000	1,125,000	* 30,600,000		8·47
1873	4,518	1,377,000	1,091,000	* 34,579,000		9·43
1874	4,706	1,562,900	1,432,200	* 39,358,500		10·28
1875	4,892	1,750,000	1,290,000	* 42,000,000		10·81
1876	5,015	1,774,000	1,059,292	41,800,000	4,646,000	10·58
1877	5,161	1,842,000	1,096,000	41,510,000	5,450,000	10·34
1878	5,378	1,980,000	1,250,000	44,000,000	6,455,000	10·78
1879	5,606	1,940,000	1,384,000	43,900,000	6,940,000	10·59
1880	5,773	2,040,000	1,464,000	45,800,000	7,800,000	10·86
1881	5,935	2,253,000	1,838,000	48,170,000	9,640,000	11·11
1882	6,171	2,450,000	2,390,000	56,200,000	11,300,000	12·82
1883	6,395	2,650,000	2,600,000	62,800,000	12,940,000	14·16
1884	6,837	3,000,000	2,824,000	66,100,000	13,580,000	14·74
1885	7,084	3,060,000	2,960,000	68,400,000	13,800,000	15·07
1886	7,295	3,400,000	3,310,000	71,000,000	15,109,000	15·47
1887	7,534	3,560,000	3,160,000	74,300,000	16,356,000	16·02
1888	7,671	3,580,000	3,500,000	80,200,000	16,586,000	17·11
1889	7,838	3,649,000	3,872,000	92,668,000	19,355,000	19·55
1890	7,913	3,280,000	3,870,000	94,100,000	19,480,000	19·63
1891	8,061	3,292,000	4,078,000	97,975,000	20,300,000	20·21
1892	8,288	3,286,700	4,606,000	102,850,000	20,815,000	20·97
1893	8,477	3,254,000	4,723,000	106,290,000	22,790,000	21·42
1894	8,664	3,237,200	4,925,500	107,145,000	23,695,000	21·34

\* Including post cards.

1323. During the past year 187 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 5,026. As compared with 1893 there was a decrease of 16,800 in the number of registered letters, and an increase of 202,500 in that of free letters, and 855,000 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 considerably 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