

postal credits, with a value of \$3,061,752,000, making a total of 17,778 millions of pieces of mail matter. The prevailing rates among Postal Union countries are: 5 cents per  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce and under for letters, 2 cents for postal cards, and 1 cent per 2 ounces for newspapers, books, &c. The registration fee is 5 cents.\*

1128. The development of the country has required, and will require, for some years continued development of postal facilities. From Cape Breton Island across the widest part of the continent to Vancouver Island is a long distance, and from York Factory, on Hudson Bay, to Pelee Island, in Lake Erie, is 10 degrees of north latitude. Yet over distances so enormous, for the most part sparsely peopled, the postal department has to transport letters for three cents an ounce. If transportation were as easy, or letters as frequent, over great stretches of prairie or mountain as they are in the western peninsula of Ontario, the postal revenues would no doubt closely approximate to the expenditures.

The postal administrators in the United States find similar obstacles confronting them. In only ten of the States are the postal revenues in excess of the expenditure. In all the Pacific States, all the Southern States and all but two of the Western States the receipts are behind the cost of carrying the mails.

In the year ended 30th June, 1895, it cost \$800,857 more to do the work than the department received for doing it.

The total expenditure by cheque last year was \$3,593,647 and the total net revenue was \$2,792,790, although the actual revenue, before percentage to postmasters, discounts for stamps and other deductions were made, was \$3,815,456.

The following sums were expended for carrying mails:—

	1894.	1895.
By Rail.....	\$1,215,728	\$1,241,115
Land .....	820,369	844,118
Steamers .....	77,235	79,356

The development of the business in the last ten years is as follows:—

	1885.	1895.
	\$	\$
Number of post offices in Canada .....	7,084	8,832
“ miles of post route .....	50,461	65,325
“ letters sent by post .....	68,400	107,565,000
“ miles of railway over which mails are carried. . .	9,858	14,463
Revenue .....	2,400,062	3,815,456
Savings Bank deposits .....	7,098,459	7,448,028
Post cards sent.....	13,800,000	24,025,000
Value of money orders issued .....	10,384,211	13,187,322

1129. By provinces, the (1) miles of annual travel on the post routes, the (2) number of transient newspapers and periodicals, books, circulars, samples,

\* *Almanach de Gotha*, 1895.