

In every 28,076 letters registered one miscarried, a smaller proportion than in 1896, when it was one in 26,357 letters.

The number of letters and other articles sent to the dead letter office in each year, since confederation, is given below:

LETTERS, POST CARDS, CIRCULARS, BOOKS, PARCELS, &c., RECEIVED AT THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE IN CANADA DURING THE YEARS 1868 TO 1897.

YEAR.	Total Number	How Disposed of.						
		Returned to other Countries.	Delivered or forwarded to Address	Returned to Writers.	Remaining in Office or with Post-master.	Failed of Delivery, contained no value, Destroyed	Returned to printed Address.	Returned to Government Department.
1868..	312,220							
1869..	307,889							
1870..	324,291							
1871..	335,508							
1872..	380,810							
1873..	426,886							
1874..	508,160							
1875..	572,127							
1876..	587,376							
1877..	563,484							
1878..	630,847							
1879..	540,429	49,952	12,645	195,689	558	262,464	19,119	
1880..	592,385	63,755	12,546	219,728	1,380	270,764	19,622	4,590
1881..	617,712	69,857	14,387	235,686	1,454	270,621	18,259	7,448
1882..	658,762	76,820	12,083	279,566	2,258	264,122	19,166	4,744
1883..	717,271	88,553	13,198	284,771	2,480	298,478	21,909	7,881
1884..	764,731	106,843	24,124	275,497	2,269	321,229	25,254	9,515
1885..	787,110	111,681	25,111	268,725	2,000	343,838	26,239	9,516
1886..	753,489	97,556	25,744	258,491	14,155	320,953	26,769	9,821
1887..	833,742	96,396	29,507	274,734	11,414	383,319	29,109	9,283
1888..	916,929	95,184	31,601	358,213	10,680	380,404	30,968	9,879
1889..	893,298	100,462	31,514	300,046	10,989	405,392	33,509	11,386
1890..	922,511	104,059	18,330	270,209	4,415	479,182	36,667	9,679
1891..	973,530	109,809	19,838	276,982	4,556	513,310	37,158	11,877
1892..	1,057,781	121,133	22,600	306,703	7,539	547,309	38,913	13,584
1893..	1,009,166	131,836	25,478	281,969	10,641	502,667	45,805	10,770
1894..	1,036,853	132,318	32,822	300,043	9,277	497,682	37,307	7,404
1895..	960,031	134,343	24,973	288,770	8,547	471,850	23,093	8,455
1896..	969,746	110,470	26,253	316,172	7,084	464,918	26,472	18,377
1897..	875,107	113,176	24,079	271,113	6,004	427,191	24,222	9,322

The number of letters containing money or other articles of value received at the office during the year was 17,406, and their contents were valued at \$230,958. Of the total number of dead letters 89,059 originated in Canada and were returned as undelivered from other countries.