

REGISTERED LETTERS.

1,774,000 registered letters passed through Canadian mails in 1876; 54 of this number miscarried, and there were besides 62 cases in which there were alleged discrepancies between the amounts stated to have been enclosed and the amounts received.

DEAD LETTERS.

During the fiscal year, 587,376 dead letters were received at the Dead Letter Office, of which 13,339 had a direction too imperfect to allow the intended destination to be ascertained. Of the dead letters 3,856 were registered, and 3,876 contained value though unregistered; 185,032 dead letters were returned to the writers.

In cases where letters are posted unpaid or insufficiently paid, every exertion is used to return them promptly.

POSTAGE STAMPS, &C.

There were issued to Postmasters during the year stamps to the amount of \$1,307,527.

The number of stamps and the different values will be seen by the following table:

½ cent stamp	563,800
1 "	12,986,700
2 "	3,155,700
3 "	29,522,300
5 "	1,511,400
6 "	553,550
10 "	140,000
12½ "	64,850
15 "	77,200
Registered 2 cent stamps..	937,200
" 5 "	231,800
" 8 "	71,950
P. Bands.....	228,700
P. Cards.....	4,464,000

The value of the issue during the year was \$1,307,527, divided among the Provinces as follows:

Ontario and Quebec.....	\$1,086,190
New Brunswick	72,239
Nova Scotia.....	113,175
British Columbia	13,600
Manitoba	9,502
P. E. Is and	12,900

MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.

After the 15th January, 1877, an important change was introduced in the management of this branch of the Post Office. Instead of, as formerly, being deposited to the credit of the Postmaster General, all monies received for Money Orders issued in Canada, and all deposits for Post Office Savings Bank are deposited by the Postmaster receiving directly to the credit of the Receiver-General, and all funds supplied to Postmasters to pay such orders, &c., are supplied by the Finance Department. The total amount of Money Orders issued in Canada during the fiscal year was \$6,866,618.54, and the total amount paid in Canada was \$6,508,302.60. The deposits in P. O. Savings Banks through Money Orders were \$1,726,204 and the payments to depositors through them \$1,783,257.97, making an aggregate business for the year of \$16,881,383. Since the exchange of Money Orders with the U. S. commenced in August, 1873, up to the close of 1876, there had been issued in Canada Money orders to the amount of \$347,420 and paid in Canada \$252,987.

P. O. SAVINGS BANKS.

Twelve new banks were opened during the year and 4 closed. The number of these banks at the close of the year was 278. The number of depositors fell during the year from 24,912 to 21,389, and the amt. of deposits \$196,000. The total cost of management of the P. O. Savings Bank for the last 8 years has averaged less than one-half per cent. on the balances due depositors each year.

Geological Survey of Canada.

The reports of this survey published reach to April, 1876. Work was done in 1876 in portions of nearly every Province in the Dominion. During the summer of that year, Mr. Selwyn the Director, Prof. Macoun the Botanist, Mr. Webster and Mr. G. M. Dawson were engaged in B. Columbia and the Peace River country. Mr. Dawson was engaged in examining the region between the Fraser River and the Cascade range, between the 52nd and 54th parallels of latitude. The country traversed belonged in the main to the basaltic or volcanic plateau of the interior. Starting from the summit of the terrace above Soda Creek on the Fraser, 2,030 feet above the sea, the trail went

southward along the high narrow terrace for 20 miles. The terrace spread then into a wide plateau, belts of timber alternating with large patches of open prairie covered with luxuriant grass, the average altitude being 3,200 feet. The flora showed a marked resemblance to that on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains along the 49th parallel. From this plateau a rapid descent was made to Rinke's farm on a bench 800 feet lower. The lower terraces and valleys are warmer and drier than the upper. Thence the route was southwestward to the Chilcotin Valley, through a generally open prairie country covered with bunch grass. The area of the cultivable land in Chilcotin Valley is