

325. The fourth congress was held at Vienna, in May, 1891, and Canada was represented by the High Commissioner at London, Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., G.C.M.G. At this meeting the admission of the Australasian colonies was agreed upon, and those countries joined the union on 1st October, 1891. A number of measures, all tending towards facilitating the transmission of correspondence, were agreed upon. The next meeting will be held at Washington, D.C., United States. Fourth meeting.

326. All the states of Europe and America, some countries of Asia and Africa, and all the British colonies and possessions, except South Africa, are now included in the union. Countries comprising the union.

327. A new agreement between the United States and Canada was signed at Washington on 12th January, 1888, to come into effect on the following 1st March, and to supersede the agreement of February, 1875. The principal change in the agreement was the establishment of a parcel post between the two countries, subject to certain regulations for the protection of Customs, with respect to articles liable for duty. All the principal provisions of the agreement of 1875 were retained. New postal agreement with United States.

328. A parcel post has been established, and the direct exchange of money orders arranged for, with Japan and Barbados. Parcel post with Japan, etc.

329. 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, 1891 :— Number of letters, etc. 1868-1891.

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES IN CANADA, AND ESTIMATED NUMBER AND NUMBER PER HEAD OF LETTERS AND POST CARDS SENT, 1868 TO 1891.

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	733,100	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

* Including post cards.