

revenue derived therefrom. The postal service, however, is managed on sound economical principles, and the importance of carrying out the principle of providing every part of the country with postal communication is so well recognized that exception is seldom if ever taken to these deficits, it being well understood that, as the population increases and the country progresses, it cannot be very long before this service is at least self-sustaining, the revenue from the older and wealthier provinces covering the excess of expenditure in newer districts.

338. The number of stamps issued to postmasters during the year was 145,450,900, as compared with 136,979,550 in 1890, being an increase of 8,471,350, and almost the whole postal revenue is derived from this source, the amount received from the sale of stamps in 1891 having been \$3,226,386. Number of stamps issued.

339. The following comparative statement shows not only the extended operations, but also the increased efficiency of the service since 1868, inasmuch as a much larger quantity of mail matter is carried at the same expense :— Postal operations compared, 1868-1891.

POSTAL OPERATIONS IN CANADA COMPARED, 1868 AND 1891.

YEAR.	Number of Offices.	Number of Money Order Offices.	Miles of Post Route.	Miles Travelled.	Amount paid for conveyance of Mails.	Number of Letters, &c.	Number of Newspapers, &c.	Total Cost per Head.
1868....	3,638	515	27,674	10,622,216	543,109	18,100,000	18,884,800	\$ cts. 0 31
1891....	8,061	1,080	58,905	27,152,543	1,918,198	118,275,000	90,425,346	0 83

340. In 1868 the conveyance of mails over 10,622,216 miles cost per mile $5\frac{1}{10}$ cents, and the transmission of 36,984,800 letters, newspapers, &c., cost $1\frac{4}{10}$ cents apiece ; in 1891 the conveyance of mails over 27,152,543 miles cost 7 cents per mile, and the transmission of 208,700,346 letters, newspapers, &c., $\frac{9}{10}$ of 1 cent apiece ; so that there is a decrease in the cost of each article carried of about $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 cent ; and it must not be overlooked that, if newspapers were carried now at the old rate of 1 cent per lb., a sum of not less than \$100,000 would be added to the revenue each year. Cost of transmission, 1868 and 1891.

341. The system of free delivery of letters by carriers in the principal cities was commenced in 1875, and it was estimated that the total number delivered in this manner in 1891 was : letters, 32,878,196, and newspapers, 11,732,188. The number of carriers employed was 340. Free delivery of letters.