

APPENDIX No. 26.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters Received and Sent from 1st July, 1867, to 30th June, 1886.

Years.	Received.	Sent.
1867—From 1st July to 31st December	2,075	1,511
1868 do 1st January to 31st December	3,498	2,317
1869 do do do	3,448	2,171
1870 do do do	4,961	3,185
1871 do do do	6,268	3,983
1872 do do do	8,333	4,428
1873 do do do	10,072	5,707
1874 do do do	9,800	5,043
1875 do do do	9,006	5,006
1876 do do do	7,971	4,773
1877 do do do	7,517	4,425
1878 do do do	6,986	4,021
1879 do do to 6th October.....	7,186	4,547
1879* do 7th October to 31st December.....	2,033	810
1880 do 1st January do	8,451	4,410
1881 do do do	9,599	5,529
1882 do do do	10,505	5,699
1883 do do do	11,633	6,227
1884 do do do	13,114	6,903
1885 do do do	† 8,977	5,321
1886 do do to 30th June.....	4,701	2,607

* By an Order in Council, approved on 19th May, 1879, published at page 1496 of the *Canada Gazette*, the 20th May of that year was fixed as the day for separating the Department of Railways and Canals from the Department of Public Works, in accordance with Act 42 Vic., cap. 7. The staff of officers and clerks of the Department of Public Works continued to manage in common the business of the two Departments until the 1st October, when an Order in Council was approved dividing the staff between the two Departments. The first letter of the new Department of Public Works was written on 7th October.

The above list does not include the correspondence of the chief officers of the Department with their assistants and the public, which averages over 8,000 letters per year, nor the Departmental and other cheques sent out, of which 4,396 were mailed during the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1886.

† The decrease in the number of letters received and sent is not caused by any actual diminution of letters, but by a change in the manner of fying since 1st April. Up to that date all accounts were registered singly, and a letter accompanied each payment. Now, accounts are fyled by subjects, as many as thirty or forty accounts being sometimes covered by one number; and printed slips have been substituted for the letters which formerly accompanied payments. A very considerable saving of time has been effected by these changes, and the business of the Department greatly facilitated.