

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

OTTAWA, 27th February, 1891.

To the Honourable JOHN HAGGART,
Postmaster General.

SIR,—I have the honour to lay before you the annual statements showing in detail the business of the Post Office in Canada for the year ended 30th June, 1890.

The increase in the number of Post Offices has not been so large as usual, only 75 having been added to the number during the year. There were 7,838 Post Offices in operation in Canada on 1st November, 1889; on the 1st July, 1890, the number had increased to 7,913.

Assuming the population of Canada to be 5,000,000, the number of post offices (7,913) would be equal to one for every 631 persons; whilst in the United States, taking the population at 64,000,000, the number of post offices (62,401) only affords one office for every 1,025 persons.

One thousand three hundred and three miles of mail route have been added during the year, and the total annual travel is now 26,498,497 miles, being an addition to that of last year of 741,719 miles.

Conventions have been executed with Japan and Barbados for a Parcel Post. The Convention with Japan took effect from 1st October, 1890; that with Barbados will come into operation on the 1st April, 1891.

CHINA AND JAPAN MAIL SERVICE.

The development of the mail service between Canada, China and Japan, has been exceedingly satisfactory. From the returns which have been made to the Department, it is ascertained that during the past year 80,395 letters, 19,558 newspapers, and 15,590 books and packets were received at Vancouver from China and Japan; and 17,055 letters, 7,859 newspapers, and 1,417 books and packets were sent from Vancouver to China and Japan.

Whilst a large number of letters, newspapers, books, etc., are received in the mails from China and Japan for the United States, very little correspondence from the United States is sent to those countries *via* Vancouver.

In addition to the above, 114 bags of closed mails, weighing 3,224 lbs., were received at Vancouver for the United Kingdom, and 18 bags, weighing 595 lbs., for the United States and Honolulu.