

Department of the Interior.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following statement shows the number of letters received and sent by the department in each year since its establishment:—

Departmental Year ending 31st October.	Letters received.	Letters sent.	Total.
1874	3,482	4,150	7,632
1875	1,974	2,189	4,163
1876	2,256	3,097	5,353
1877	3,137	3,677	6,814
1878	4,642	6,009	10,651
1879	5,586	6,179	11,765
1880	8,222	9,940	18,162
1881	13,605	15,829	29,434
1882	25,500	30,300	55,800
1883	27,180	33,500	60,680
1884	27,525	33,386	60,911
1885	33,970	43,997	77,967
1886	60,964	67,973	124,937
1887	47,845	60,890	108,735
1888	43,407	52,298	95,705
1889	48,316	50,500	98,816
1890	36,200	36,008	72,208
1891	38,000	36,267	74,267
1892	41,990	42,203	84,193
1893	50,794	48,145	98,939
1894	48,619	50,840	99,459
Calendar year ending 31st December, 1894	47,558	59,508	98,066

The number of registered letters received during the departmental year was 1,962. The number sent out was 6,603, or a total of 8,565. During the calendar year the numbers were 6,019 sent and 1,916 received, or a total of 7,935.

OPERATIONS OF THE TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEYS BRANCH.

The township subdivision surveys made by this branch of the department were restricted to lands actually in demand for settlement. In nearly all the townships which were surveyed some squatters were found.

Special surveys were also inaugurated with a view of securing information as to the available supply of water from the Bow river and its tributaries in the Calgary district, and as to the extent of the land to which such water could be artificially applied for agricultural purposes. This question of irrigation I propose to deal with in a general way at a subsequent stage of this report.

SUBDIVISION SURVEYS.

Five parties were at work in Manitoba—Messrs. H. G. Dickson and C. A. E. Shaw renewing the marks of obliterated surveys, and Messrs. A. F. Martin, P. R. A. Belanger and J. E. Woods subdividing townships at Lake Dauphin and at the narrows of Lake Manitoba. The newly surveyed lands were in great demand, particularly at Lake Dauphin, and such of them as are not already subject to entry will be speedily taken up.

Mr. Thomas Fawcett had charge of the surveys in Prince Albert district. Most of his work consisted in correcting old surveys.

In the Edmonton district, Mr. E. W. Hubbell subdivided several townships, renewing the boundary marks in others.