

people, for it can be easily seen that as the progress of Canada increases and her population is augmented, a very long time cannot elapse before the service will be self-sustaining, and that the excess of expenditure in new districts will be covered by the revenue from the wealthier and more populous provinces. However, it is not a very pleasant duty for a cabinet minister to report so large a deficit as the following report shows: *

POSTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE
OF CANADA FROM 1868 TO 1896.

Year ended 30th June.	Revenue.	Expenditure	Expendi- ture in excess of Revenue.	Amount per Head.	
				Rev- enue.	Ex- pend- iture.
	\$	\$	\$	\$ c.	\$ c.
1868	1,024,710	1,053,570	28,859	0 30	0 31
1869	973,056	1,079,828	106,772	0 29	0 32
1870	1,010,767	1,155,261	144,493	0 29	0 33
1871	1,079,767	1,271,006	191,238	0 31	0 36
1872	1,193,062	1,369,163	176,100	0 33	0 38
1873	1,406,984	1,553,704	146,619	0 38	0 42
1874	1,476,207	1,695,480	219,272	0 39	0 44
1875	1,536,509	1,873,241	336,731	0 40	0 48
1876	1,484,886	1,959,758	474,871	0 38	0 50
1877	1,501,134	2,075,618	574,483	0 37	0 52
1878	1,620,022	2,110,365	490,343	0 40	0 52
1879	1,534,363	2,167,266	632,902	0 37	0 52
1880	1,648,017	2,286,611	638,593	0 39	0 54
1881	1,767,953	2,333,189	565,236	0 41	0 54
1882	2,022,098	2,459,356	437,258	0 46	0 56
1883	2,264,384	2,687,394	423,009	0 51	0 61
1884	2,330,741	2,931,387	600,646	0 52	0 65
1885	2,400,062	3,097,882	697,820	0 53	0 68
1886	2,469,379	3,380,429	911,050	0 54	0 74
1887	2,603,255	3,458,100	854,845	0 56	0 75
1888	2,751,139	3,533,397	782,285	0 59	0 75
1889	2,984,222	3,746,040	761,817	0 63	0 79
1890	3,223,615	3,940,696	717,081	0 67	0 82
1891	3,374,888	4,020,740	645,852	0 70	0 83
1892	3,542,611	4,205,985	663,374	0 72	0 86
1893	3,696,062	4,343,758	647,696	0 75	0 88
1894	3,734,418	4,442,339	707,921	0 75	0 89
1895	3,815,456	4,616,313	800,857	0 75	0 91
1896	4,004,285	4,705,282	700,997	0 78	0 92
1897	4,311,243	4,897,783	586,539		

*The statistical Year-Book of Canada for 1896. Report of the Postmaster General for the year ended June 30th 1897.

One of the most important divisions of the Canadian postal organiza-

tions is its almost perfect railway mail service traversing a total distance of some 14,780 miles. The extensive growth of this part of the system convinced the Postmaster-General of the necessity of placing it under one superintendent and accordingly by an Order-in-Council of April 1st 1897, a Railway Mail Service Branch was established in charge of a Controller with headquarters at Ottawa. Although only a year has passed since its establishment, the increased efficiency and economy, and particularly the uniform manner in which the mails are received and despatched prove the wisdom of such a measure.

The institution of the Savings Bank Branch was of paramount importance to all classes of the country for in viewing the salutary results which have been accomplished in this division we can readily see what has been done by the government to foster and encourage among the people habits of thrift and frugality. In 1867, when the Post Office Act was passed the system was limited to Ontario and Quebec but in 1885 it was extended to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and at present there are 755 savings bank offices distributed over the several provinces. There are also 33 Government Savings Banks under the control of the Finance Department, but arrangements are made for their transfer to the Post Office Department according as the position of superintendent at each place becomes vacant. The absence of post office savings banks in the United States postal system makes one of the few radical differences between the Canadian and American services.

What are the possible changes in Canadian postal system is a difficult matter to determine. Though the