

REGISTERED LETTERS.

It is estimated that 3,280,000 registered letters passed through the mails in Canada during the year ended 30th June, 1890.

The estimated number for each year since 1882 is as follows:—

In 1883.....	2,659,000
1884.....	3,000,000
1885.....	3,000,000
1886.....	3,400,000
1887.....	3,560,000
1888.....	3,580,000
1889.....	3,649,000
1890.....	3,280,000

It was to be expected that the increase from 2c. to 5c. in the registration fee upon domestic correspondence, would naturally cause some falling off in the number of letters registered; but the actual diminution is considerably less than was expected.

The number of cases of abstraction of contents or portions of contents, or loss of registered letters containing money, sent through the mails of the Dominion during the year ended 30th June, 1890, has been much less than usual, the number of cases reported having been 149, whilst the number during the previous year was 243.

This great reduction would seem to shew that the special measures, taken last year under your immediate instructions, to increase the safety of registered correspondence whilst in transit through the mails, have been attended with success.

In 65 cases the contents (or portions thereof) were, after thorough investigation into the circumstances attending each case, made good by the officers who were held responsible for the loss. 24 letters were stolen from the post office, or from mails *en route*, the contents of which were not recovered.

There were 41 letters, the contents of which, (or a portion thereof), were stated to be missing, but no evidence was forthcoming to account for the alleged discrepancies. 10 letters were, it is alleged, contained in mails or mail packages which failed to reach the post offices for which they were intended.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

The complaints which were so prevalent some time since, of the want of adhesiveness in the postage stamps have almost entirely ceased. It is hoped, therefore, that the efforts of the manufacturer to remove the cause of complaint have been successful.