

Some Old Post Office Statistics.

Of all departments of Government administration, that of the Post-office is the most thoroughly prosperous and satisfactory. Every yearly Report from the Postmaster-General exhibits the most careful attention to the public service, and at the same time a steadily progressive income. In each department it is apparent that constant efforts are made to afford every possible accommodation to the public, and the financial results exceed the most sanguine expectations.

Happening to look over some old English Post-office statistics, I thought that I would choose the report of 1865 as a subject, it being peculiarly adapted to exhibit the progress of this institution.

In the year 1865 the increase in the number of letters conveyed by the Post office, was more than proportionate to the increase of population and the number of inhabited houses. The gross total of articles conveyed in 1865 was—

Letters	720,460,000
Books and newspapers	97,250,000
Samples and patterns	1,280,000
Total	818,990,000

The increase of letters in 1865 over 1864 was 41 millions, that of 1864 over 1863 having been 36 millions.

In the number of registered letters there was corresponding increase; the number in 1865 being 2,232,000; in 1864, 2,130,000; and in 1863, 1,965,000.

The number of valentines in 1865 was 542,000; in 1864, 530,300; and in 1863, 494,700. As in former years, nearly one-fourth of the whole number of valentines posted in London were from the western district. Twice as many valentines were sent from London to the country as from the country to London.

The number of returned letters rose from 2,864,000 in 1863, and 3,154,000 in 1864, to 3,518,000 in 1865. It is estimated, however, that 50,000 of the returned letters of 1865 were circulars issued by agents and committees at the general election. During the year upwards of 12,000 letters were posted in England and Wales without any address, and of these 298 contained cash, notes, bills and cheques, to the amount in all of £3,700.

In the increase of receptacles for letters, the number of free deliveries, the increase and acceleration of mails and generally in the extension of postal facilities; the Report is most satisfactory.

The only important alteration in the scale of postage for inland letters was that from the progression by one ounce rate to a progression by half an ounce, and the charge for half an ounce at each step. Thus for letters between 1 oz. and 1½ oz., the charge is now 3d. instead of 4d.; and between 2 oz. and 2½ oz., 5d. instead of 6d. Since the commencement of 1866 a similar reduction was made in the scale of postage for books, patterns, and samples.

Additional facilities were also provided for posting late letters by the London evening mails: "Letters for the night mails generally could be posted for an extra payment of one penny up to 6.45 p. m. at the district offices, and up to 7 p. m. at the chief office, and, for an extra charge of sixpence, up to 7.30 p. m. at the chief office. Under the arrangement which came into operation in the beginning of 1865, letters for the night mails generally could be posted for an extra charge of one penny up to 6.45 p. m., at the chief and district