

was added \$147,535 received for interest, transfer fees, etc. The balance of the year's account was \$2,641,600, out of which dividends were paid and declared equal to 17½ per cent. on the paid-up capital. The sum of \$2,510,350 is left to be carried forward to next year.

At the annual meeting the chairman, Lord Claud Hamilton, said: "In 1882, our reserves, including reserves for outstanding losses, were \$61,260, or 34 per cent. of the premium income, in 1897 the figure was \$1,363,575, in 1903, \$2,958,215, whereas in the present account, 1904, after paying this year's dividend, the reserves are 105 per cent. of the premium income."

The business in the Dominion is expanding most satisfactorily under the energetic management of Mr. Richard I. Griffin, Montreal, and Mr. C. W. I. Woodland, Toronto. The premium income in Canada rose from \$285,715 in 1903, to \$302,622, with every prospect of continuous enlargement as the Employers' Liability Corporation is growing in public confidence.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT, 1904.

The business transacted by the post-offices of a country responds automatically to its general business conditions. It reflects also the social and educational status of the people, as well as the extent of their relationships with those in foreign countries. The correspondence kept up by the British troops in South Africa with their relatives and friends in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and West Indies was incomparably larger than what has been dispatched from the Russian troops in Manchuria, which, indeed has been so very trifling as to have had no such special arrangements for being forwarded as were made in South Africa.

It is highly creditable to the Honorable Mr. Mulock, Postmaster-General, that he has energetically devoted himself to the task of facilitating postal communications with Great Britain and foreign countries, and the extension of postal services in Canada. The accompanying table shows

the number of post-offices in operation in each Province, also the estimated number of letters and other articles posted in the Dominion in the last fiscal year.

The following statement shows how greatly the number of letters posted has expanded in past years:

Year.	Letters posted.	Year.	Letters posted.
1868.....	18,100,000	1893.....	106,290,000
1873.....	34,579,000	1896.....	116,028,000
1878.....	44,000,000	1898.....	134,975,000
1883.....	62,800,000	1903.....
1888.....	80,200,000	1904.....	273,905,000
Post cards.		Post cards.	
1876.....	4,646,000	1896.....	24,794,000
1886.....	15,109,000	1900.....	27,130,000
1896.....	24,794,000	1904.....	27,178,000

In the last six years the total number of letters posted has more than doubled, and since 1897 the increase has been from 123,830,000 to 273,905,000, the increase in that period having been over 120 per cent.

The number of letters per head posted in Canada last year was 50—assuming the population to be 5,500,000—as compared with 24 per head in 1897, 16 per head in 1886, and 5.37 in 1868.

The number of post-offices has been increasing rapidly, their numbers were, in 1868, 3,638; in 1878, 5,378; in 1888, 7,671; in 1898, 9,282, and in 1904 10,460. The increase has been to a considerable extent caused by the new settlements in the Northwest, where a post-office is one of the earliest necessities. There is now a post-office in Canada for each 526 of the population which must be admitted to be a very liberal allowance. To yield such an average there must be a large number of places with a smaller population than 527 where there is a post-office. The country will not begrudge the expenses of so scattered a service, for a post-office is a primary element in any civilized community and in the Northwest is especially required to mitigate the discomfort of being so isolated.

The financial record of the Post-Office Department in recent years is remarkable. The report for 1904 only begins at 1896, for reasons we need not dilate upon. We present a statement which begins at an earlier date:

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LETTER, ETC., POSTED IN CANADA DURING THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1904.

Province.	P. O.'s open.	Letters.	Post Cards.	Registered Letters.	Free Letters.	3rd Class Matter.		Packets open to nation.	Closed parcels.
						1 c. per 2 oz.	1 c. per 4 oz.		
Ontario.....	3,392	125,066,000	17,388,000	2,732,000	6,060,000	8,220,000	2,963,000	2,631,000	23,132
Quebec.....	1,989	56,143,000	4,387,000	1,381,000	1,133,000	8,287,000	1,306,000	645,000	10,389
Nova Scotia.....	1,836	18,088,000	1,514,000	435,000	429,000	1,431,000	294,800	219,000	3,823
New Brunswick.....	1,272	11,948,000	1,100,000	271,000	256,000	2,244,000	354,800	170,000	1,869
P. E. Island.....	426	2,350,000	158,000	57,000	53,000	324,000	34,900	22,000	65
Brit. Columbia.....	406	16,637,000	817,000	411,000	306,000	1,697,000	328,000	142,000	6,625
Manitoba & N.W.	1,139	29,958,000	1,814,000	699,000	582,000	4,006,000	406,000	205,000	6,528
Totals.....	10,460	259,190,000	27,178,000	5,986,000	8,819,000	45,209,000	5,588,100	4,034,000	52,442