

REGISTRATION.

The number of Registered Letters estimated to have passed by post in Canada in the year 1872, was,—

In Ontario and Quebec	1,155,000
In New Brunswick	50,000
In Nova Scotia	70,000
In Manitoba.....	2,000
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Total	1,277,000

This is an increase of more than 16 per cent. on the number estimated for last year, and appears to have taken place altogether in Ontario and Quebec. In those Provinces the pressure on the Post Office, from the constantly augmenting number of Registered Letters, is so severely felt, that some feasible modification of the present system must shortly be adopted, in order to simplify the Registration process for the relief, especially, of the railway travelling post offices and city post offices, through which the bulk of this class of letters passes in the course of conveyance and delivery.

It seems to be expedient also to adopt some distinctive postage stamp to be used only in prepayment of the Registration charge, both to make it clear that this charge has been duly paid and accounted for in every case, and to diminish the risk which is occasionally felt at points of distribution of omitting to carry on the Registration in cases where the ordinary Registration postmark is not as distinct and calculated to arrest attention as it should be.

It has always been the policy of the Canada Post Office to admit letters to Registration at a low rate of charge for the additional security thus given, so as to leave no adequate motive, on the score of cost, for sending valuable letters through the mails unregistered; and, doubtless, the very large proportion of such letters offered for registration demonstrates a gratifying measure of success in attaining the desired object. Nevertheless, whether from negligence or other cause, the number of letters containing remittances which are posted as ordinary letters, without the protection of registration, is unfortunately great, exposing the persons employed in the Post Office service to regrettable temptations to do wrong, which are demoralizing and very prejudicial to the general safety of correspondence.

The cases of loss or of alleged loss of Registered Letters, or of abstraction of contents or of portions of contents of such letters, were as follows:—