

Postmaster-General the argument that the "area of productivity" did not justify the extension of Penny Postage to the Colonies. It was curiously enough on the occasion of the banquet to celebrate the jubilee of the introduction of the Penny Post in England. "How can we expect increase of correspondence, say from India?" said the Postmaster-General. I at once telegraphed to India for the statistics on the point. The answer given me by Mr. Fanshawe, the able Postmaster-General of India, was that the total number of all articles sent to and from India through the post in 1872 was 4,728,503, while in 1888 no less than 17,042,721 articles were exchanged. (Cheers.) In letters alone the increase was from one million to three and a half millions. (Applause.) I have heard nothing more of this argument, from the authorities at St. Martin's-le-Grand.

In connection with this matter, it is significant that whereas the annual rate of increase in our inland correspondence is only 3 per cent., the corresponding increase of correspondence from the Colonies is from 10 to 100 per cent. (Hear, hear.)

#### THE COST OF ESTABLISHING PENNY POSTAGE.

The official estimate given (in the House of Commons) is that it would cost 75,000*l.* to establish