

## RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

Since the Return of last year, for October, 1889, Mail Service has been put on 101 miles of additional Railway Lines, as follows:—

Name of Railway.	Places between which Railways have been opened since October, 1889.	Miles.	Total.
Joggins.....	Maccan and River Hebert.....		8
Quebec and Lake St. John.....	Chambord and Roberval.....		13
L'Assomption.....	L'Assomption and L'Epiphanie.....		3½
Kingston, Napanee and Western (late Napanee, Tamworth and Quebec).....	Tamworth and Tweed.....	20	
	Harrowsmith and Yarker Junction.....	7	
			27
Lake Erie, Essex and Detroit River.....	Walkerville and Leamington.....		38
Manitoba and North-Western.....	Binscarth and Russell.....		11½
			101

Last year mails were carried over 11,510½ miles of railway. This year the mileage is 11,848¾, showing an increase of 238⅞ miles.

Railway mail service has been established on the Lake Erie, Essex and Detroit River Railway, and on the extensions of the Napanee and Tamworth Railway (now known as the Kingston, Napanee and Western Railway) the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway, and the Manitoba and North-Western Railway.

Letter boxes have now been placed at all the principal stations on the leading railways in the Dominion, in which prepaid letters may be posted without additional charge. The letters posted in these letter boxes are, for the most part, collected by the railway mail clerks on duty in the post office cars upon the several railways; in a few places, where the trains do not stop long enough to admit of the clerks leaving the cars, the collection is made by couriers who hand the letters to the mail clerks in the travelling post offices. The accommodation thus afforded enables the public to post letters and post cards up to the last moment without extra charge, and is found to be a great convenience to persons travelling.

The amounts paid to railway mail clerks, over and above their ordinary salaries for night duty and mileage, during the past three years, have been as follows:—

1888.....	\$80,722.97
1889.....	83,429.19
1890.....	92,648.55

From which it appears that, whilst under the amendments to the Civil Service Act in 1889, the payments to the railway mail service for night duty and mileage have been more equitably apportioned, the total amount paid to the railway mail clerks has been considerably increased.

Considering the hazardous nature of the employment, and the difficulties under which the work has to be performed, the Department has every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the railway mail service has been carried on.