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POST-OFFICE.

This important Branch of the Public Administration has made great progress since the country has become pacified, the old and antiquated customs have been eliminated and the best modern practices have been introduced under the present Administration.

According to the data furnished by the General Administration of the post-office, the post-offices existing during the financial year of 1891 to 1892, amounted to 1,410 in the following order:

Local Post-offices.....	464
Agencies.....	930
City Branches.....	46
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	1,410

During the same period the following improvements have been carried out: establishment of 23 mail routes, one city branch and twenty seven agencies. Elevation of five offices of the latter class to the rank of Local Post-offices.

The Post-offices of the Federal District are those which have the largest circulation, but at the same time a very large increase has been noted in the country correspondence.

The movement of correspondence during the same financial year was as follows:

RECEIVED.

Home service.

Public correspondence.....	17,595,090	
Official correspondence.....	1,358,634	18,953,724
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Printed matter, 2nd. & 3rd. class.....		36,280,472
Samples 4th. class.....		169,801
Public registered correspondence.....	336,478	
Official " "	139,368	475,846
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Total home service.....		55,879,845

Foreign service.

Public correspondence.....	4,865,907	
Official.....	30,768	4,896,678
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Printed matter, 2nd. & 3rd. class.....		7,836,471
Samples, 4th. class.....		95,758
Public registered correspondence.....		171,711
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Total foreign service.....		13,000,615
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Total inward correspondence...		68,880,460

FORWARDED.

Home service.

Public correspondence.....	24,087,967	
Official correspondence.....	2,097,273	26,185,240
Printed matter.....		34,467,252
Samples		143,931
Public registered correspondence.....	407,063	
Official " "	153,731	560,974
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Total Home service.....		61,357,217

Foreign service.

Public correspondence.....	3,366,261	
Official correspondence.....	63,727	3,429,988
Printed matter.....		3,668,401
Samples		43,314
Registered correspondence.....		107,052
Total foreign service.....		7,248,795
Total outward correspondence.		68,606,012

GENERAL MOVEMENT.

Pieces received during the year.....	68,880,460
Pieces forwarded during the year.....	68,606,012
	137,486,472

The movement of postal cards in the Capital during the same year was as follows:

Received from the Interior and from abroad..	23,312
Forwarded	26,350
Total movement.....	49,662

The receipts and expenses during the same year, as shown in the accounts of the Fourth Section of the General Administration of the Post-office will be found in the following table:

REVENUES.

Sale of stamps.....	1,095,290 89
Revenues of the financial year 1889 to 1890.....	119 32
Revenues of the financial year 1890 to 1891.....	6,571 07
Stamped envelopes.....	340 90
Post Office Boxes.....	25,241 00
Sundries.....	57 01
Fines.....	483 07
Exchange.....	14,078 57
Carried forward.....	1,142,181 40

EXPENDITURE.

General Administration.....	78,380 89
Railroad and steamer service.....	47,514 57
Expenses of administration.....	608,133 01
Local Post Offices. Salaries and Expenses.....	476,374 59
	\$ 1,142,181 83 \$ 1,210,403 06

POSTAL TARIFFS.

Home service.

First class.—Letters up to 15 grammes.....	\$ 0 10
And 10 cents for every additional 15 grammes or fraction thereof up to 2 kilograms, which is the maximum weight received.	
Letter cards, each.....	0 10
Postal cards, each.....	0 05
Postal card with answer prepaid.....	0 10
Second class.—Periodical publications, for each 480 grammes or fraction thereof	0 04
The prospectuses or first numbers of these publications are carried gratis.	
Third class.—Books, circulars, publications not periodical, business papers, original matter for printing, printers proofs and printed matter not included in the second class, up to 60 grammes.....	0 01
For every 60 grammes above the first, or fraction of 60 grammes up to 2 kilograms, which is the largest weight received.....	0 01
Fourth class.—Samples without any value and objects not included in the previous classes, and which by their volume can be transported in the mails, for every 30 grammes or fraction thereof.....	0 02
Official communications from the States, for every 15 grammes or fraction thereof, up to 2 kilograms.....	0 03

City service.

First class.—Letters, for every 15 grammes or fraction thereof up to 2 kilograms.....	0 04
Letter cards, each.....	0 04
Postal cards, each.....	0 02
Postal card with answer paid.....	0 04

The postage on the articles specified in the Second, Third and Fourth classes as well as the correspondence of the State Governments is the same as that given in the tariff for the Home Service.

The cost of registry both for the city and country services, is 25 cents payable in postage stamps.

The post-office only receives articles whose dimensions do not exceed 20 centimetres in length, 10 in width and 5 in thickness, and whose weight does not exceed 2 kilograms; but nevertheless, exceptions are made to this general rule when the parcels so received do not prejudice the postal service or the contents of the mail bags.

FOREIGN SERVICE.

FIRST TARIFF.

For correspondence to Canada by land route and to other countries of the Postal Union, except the United States, by subsidized steamer.

Letters, for every 15 grammes or fraction thereof.....	0 05
Postal cards, for every 50 grammes or fraction thereof.....	0 01
Business papers, up to 250 grammes.....	0 05

With an additional cent for any excess of 50 grammes of fraction thereof.

Samples, up to 100 grammes.....	0 02
" " to 150 grammes.....	0 03
" " to 150 to 200 grammes.....	0 04

Samples, up to 200 to 250 grammes.....	0 05
This being the highest weight allowed.	

SECOND TARIFF.

For correspondence forwarded by steamers without subsidy.

Letters, for every 15 grammes or fraction thereof.....	0 10
Postal cards, each.....	0 03
" " with answer paid.....	0 06
Printed matter, for every 50 grammes or fraction thereof....	0 02
Books, circulars, business papers, publications not being periodicals, printer's proofs, for every 60 grammes or fraction thereof.....	0 01
Samples and other articles not included in the above quotations, up to 100 grammes.....	0 02

With an additional cent for every 50 grammes or fraction thereof.

Postal packages with merchandise, for every 460 grammes or fraction thereof.....	0 12
Up to 5 kilogrammes, which is the highest weight allowed.	

SPECIAL TARIFF FOR THE UNITED STATES.

Letters, for every 15 grammes or fraction thereof.....	0 05
Postal cards, each.....	0 02
" " with answer prepaid.....	0 04
Periodical publications, for every 480 grammes or fraction thereof.....	0 04
Books, circulars, business papers, etc.....	0 01
Mercantile samples and other objects not included in the previous classifications, up to 100 grammes.....	0 02
For any excess of 50 grammes or fraction thereof.....	0 01
Postal Packages with merchandise, up to 460 grammes.....	0 12

With an additional 12 cents for any excess of 460 grammes or fraction thereof.

Prepayment is required on all printed matter, business papers, samples and postal packages, and on letters, for at least the value of one unit.

Tariff for the countries not included in the Postal Union.

Postal card or letter card.....	0 20
Letters up to 15 grammes in weight.....	0 20
Periodical publications up to 480 grammes.....	0 08
Books, circulars, etc., for every 30 grammes.....	0 02
Articles not included in the previous clasifications, for every 30 grammes.....	0 04

SUBSIDIZED STEAMERS.

Spanish Trans-Atlantic Company, formerly called "Antonio López."

Pacific Mail-Line between San Francisco and Panamá touching at intermediate ports.

Steamers of Don Joaquin Redo. Line between San Francisco and Guaymas, touching at San Diego and Mexican intermediate ports.

Steamers of Mr. Louis Huller, running between San Diego Ensenada de todos Santos and San Quintin.

Steamers of Mr. Enrique R. Mejía, running between Veracruz, Morgan City and Galveston.

Steamers of Regil & Co., running between Veracruz and Progreso, touching at intermediate ports.

German Imperial Mail and Harrison Line, running between European and Mexican ports.

West India and Pacific Mail S. S. Co. running between England, the West India Islands and Mexican ports.

Alexandre Steamers, between New York, Havana and Mexican Ports.

Royal Mail S. S. Company, between European and Mexican ports.

Furmann Steamers between New York, Progreso and Veracruz.

XIV

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

CONFIGURATION AND PHYSICAL ASPECT.

The enormous Cordilleras which traverse the vast extent of Mexican territory, give it a most peculiar aspect. The land slopes upward from the coasts to the interior of the country, forming picturesque valleys and precipitous ravines with frequent and abrupt changes of level, and forming beautiful cascades in the rivers that carry off their abundant waters.

Seen from the coast plains, the long crests of the mountains appear to be drawn with a background, which at times consists of a clear and serene sky, whilst at other times it presents itself full of clouds charged with rains and electricity. This crest is in different parts penetrated by passes affording access to the great central table land, which is limited on its eastern and western sides by the succession of peaks which form the centres of the extensive branches in which the Gran Cordillera is divided, and which, although a little different in structure, is really a continuation of the Cordillera which may be said to form the backbone of South America. This enormous mountain range takes its rise in Patagonia and runs in a northerly direction, throwing out ramifications of more or less extent. It runs parallel to the Pacific Coast, traversing the territories of Chili, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia. In Panamá and