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THE POST-OFFICE.

The forty-second annual report of the Postmaster-General, which the Duke of Norfolk has submitted to the Lords of the Treasury, and which has just been officially published, states that, during the year ending March 31st, 1,834,200,000 letters, 314,500,000 post-cards, 672,300,000 book packets, circulars, and samples, 149,000,000 newspapers, and 60,527,000 parcels, a total of 3,030,527,000 postal packets of one sort or another, being an average of 77 per head for the population, were delivered in the United Kingdom. The Duke points out that in the year 1839, which immediately preceded the establishment of the uniform penny postage, the number of letters (including 6,000,000 franks) which passed through the post was 82,000,000, rising the next year, the first under the new régime, to 169,000,000. In 1870 post-cards were introduced, and considerable concessions in the rates for books, newspapers and samples were made. The total revenue in 1839 was £2,435,040, and the expenditure £756,999. In the year just ended the revenue was £11,759,945 postal, and £2,879,794 telegraph—£14,639,739 in all, with an expenditure of £11,007,617, leaving a net revenue of £3,632,122.

SUNDAY LABOUR IN BELGIUM.

The first question inquired into by the recently-established "Office du Travail" in Belgium has been that of Sunday labour, the first instalment of the Report on which has now appeared in a volume of over 500 pages. The present volume practically deals with all the chief industries carried on in Belgium, except transport trades, mines, and quarries. According to the *Labour Gazette* the number of typical establishments or branches of establishments selected for investigation numbered 1,459, employing 119,477 workpeople on weekdays. Of these establishments 946 employed Sunday labour to the amount of 41,679 workpeople. A distinction is made between regular and irregular Sunday labour, *i.e.*, between the establishment (of which 430 were included in the inquiry) in which workpeople are employed on every Sunday in the year, and those (516 in number) in which they are employed on occasional Sundays only. Of the above 41,679 workpeople, 13,651 (or 11·5 per cent. of the total number employed in the establishments) work every Sunday; 14,712 (12·3 per cent.) every other Sunday; and 13,316 (or 11·2 per cent.) on occasional Sundays. For the great majority (11,916 out of a total of 14,712) of those described as working every other Sunday the hours of such employment are from midnight on Saturday till six o'clock on Sunday morning.—*Record*.

 Obituary.

THE death is announced of the Rev. Thomas Green, M.A., perpetual vicar of Friezland, and Honorary Canon of Manchester. He was a Hulmeian scholar of Brasenose College, Oxford, where he graduated in the Second Class *Lit. Hum.* in 1844, having been ordained the previous year by the Bishop of Chester. He held the perpetual curacy of Bardsley from 1844 to 1849, when he was appointed to the newly-formed parish of Friezland. He remained there until 1858, when he became Principal of the Church Missionary Society's College at Islington. In 1870 he returned to Friezland, where he officiated until his death. He was elected Proctor in Convocation for the archdeaconry of Manchester in 1879, and was appointed Honorary Canon of Manchester Cathedral in 1881. He was, says the *Times*, a life governor of the Church Missionary Society, and at the same time gave an ardent support to such home Mission work as that carried on by the Church Pastoral Aid Society, the Jews, and the Irish Church Mission Societies.—*Guardian*.