

steadily increased every Year, ranging from 2·62 in 1868, to 3·93 in 1874. This circumstance however only proves that the increase in the commerce of the country has exceeded in proportion the increase of population, and is really one striking evidence of steadily increasing general prosperity.

The calculations in this table, in the case of the four original Provinces, are based for the first three Years, upon the census of 1861, with the pro rata percentage of increase as ascertained by the census of 1871, added to each year; and those for the four following Years upon the census of 1871 without addition, there being no reliable data upon which to estimate the increase since the latter date. This, however, does not lessen the value of the comparison instituted, as the proportion of increase cannot be very different in each Province.

The population of Manitoba is taken from the census of that province of 1870, and British Columbia, at 50,000 inhabitants as estimated.

When it is considered that the chief part of the revenue of the Dominion, is necessarily raised by means of Customs duties, it will be conceded that the burden of such taxation as exhibited in the above, bears very lightly upon our population, especially when compared with older countries.

Annual percentage of expenses of Collection of Customs Revenue in each Province since Confederation.

Years.	Ontario.	Quebec.	Nova Scotia.	New Brunswick	Manitoba.	British Columbia.	Prince Edward Island.	Dominion.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1868	07·14	04·35	08·66	08·48	.....	.....	.....	05·99
1869	07·58	05·79	09·55	09·06	.....	.....	.....	07·09
1870	06·83	03·59	08·26	06·28	.....	.....	.....	05·41
1871	04·90	02·87	07·37	05·38	.....	.....	.....	04·21
1872	04·29	02·77	06·89	05·61	17·03	.....	.....	04·04
1873	04·25	03·12	07·53	05·88	17·36	08·03	.....	04·35
1874	04·95	02·94	07·77	06·27	15·87	05·91	08·05	04·55

There are several points in this statement which are worthy of remark. Referring to the Dominion column, it will be observed that with the exception of 1869, there has been a steady decline in the percentage of expenses until 1873. This is the result of the large increase in revenue, and the expenses not, of course, increasing in proportion; and in this connection it may not be improper for me, very respectfully, to observe that the multiplication of small ports and outports of entry, is one of the most fruitful sources of increased expenditure. Were it possible to restrict the Customs business to one half the number now established, the same amount of revenue could be collected at a very reduced percentage of expense, and with much more uniformity in the administration of Customs laws, security to the revenue and benefit to the fair trader.

In the comparison of the four original Provinces of the Confederation, Nova Scotia