

DEPARTMENT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

In the Post Office Department again a comparison of the administration is noteworthy. The public of Canada have appreciated extremely the great boon of a reduced postage on letters. It was reserved for a Liberal administration to be able to inaugurate the Imperial Penny Postage, by which today nearly all subjects of Edward the Seventh can post a letter to any other of their compatriots for a penny; a privilege which before Sir William Mulock's labors cost them five cents. The Canadian two cent rate has also taken the place of the old three cent rate. Notwithstanding the immense increases in the number of post offices and in the postal facilities, generally, a great change has come over the Post Office revenue and expenditure. The following table shows the deficit under the last Tory year, and the great reductions under the Liberal Government.

The following statement shows the Department's operations year by year, commencing with 1896 :—

Year	Net Revenue	Expenditure.	Deficit.	Surplus.
1896.. . . .			\$781,152.19	
1897.. . . .	\$3,202,938.42	\$3,789,478.34	586,539.92	
1898.. . . .	3,527,809.69	3,575,411.99	47,602.30	
1899.. . . .	3,182,930.92	3,581,848.71	398,917.79	
1900.. . . .	3,183,984.17	3,645,646.04	461,661.87	
1901.. . . .	3,421,192.19	3,837,376.18	416,183.99	
1902.. . . .	3,888,126.10	3,883,016.96		5,109.14

N.B.—The loss of revenue in 1899 and subsequently was caused by the reduction in the Imperial letter rate from 5 cents to 2 cents, which went into effect on the 25th of December, 1898, and by the reduction in the domestic letter rates and in the letter rate from Canada to the United States, which went into effect one week later, namely on the 1st of January, 1899. (Page XI Postmaster General's Report, 1902.)

It also appears from the Postmaster General's Report, Page 5, that the following was the total net revenue and expenditure for the periods referred to:—

	Total Net Revenue	Expenditure
1897 to 1902.... .	\$20,406,981.49	\$22,312,778.22
1891 to 1896.... .	16,508,221.87	20,674,919.00
Increase for 1897-1902 .. .	\$ 3,898,759.62	\$ 1,637,859.22
Average Annual Increase	\$ 649,793.27	\$ 272,976.53