

Now, I admit that abstract propositions cannot always be depended on. But I say that in matters financial you can almost certainly, with safety, lay down this proposition: that whenever, without war or some other extraordinary cause like that, you find the taxes of a country increasing very rapidly, increasing out of all proportion to its population, you may rest assured that the Government has been grossly extravagant, and in all probability grossly corrupt. And when you find the taxation remain stationary for a term of years, you may feel equally assured that the Government has been honestly and economically conducted.

In connection with this proposition I have here some figures that I have taken from the Public Accounts.

TAXATION.

1883-84.....	\$ 25,483,199 19
1884-85.....	25,384,529 32
1885-86.....	25,226,456 21
1886-87.....	28,687,001 93
1887-88.....	28,177,413 18
1888-89.....	30,613,522 51
1889-90.....	31,587,071 73
1890-91.....	30,314,151 15
1891-92.....	28,446,157 31
1892-93.....	29,321,367 42
	283,240,869 95

Average taxation for 10 years.....	\$28,324,086 99
Taxation for years 1882-83	29,269,698 81
do do 1892-93	29,321,367 42
Amount of average taxation for 10 years, less than taxes for 1882-83..	945,611 82
Amount of taxation for 1892-3 in excess of taxation for 1882-3.....	51,668 61
Rate of taxation per head in 1882-3.....	6 75
Rate of taxation per head in 1892-3.....	6 07

During the last year a most important exhibition of the industries of the world was held in the city of Chicago, and it is a matter of great satisfaction and gratification to the people of Canada that our country took such a good position on that occasion. I have been looking over the reports, as far as they are available, and find that in two articles especially Canada has made extraordinary progress: one is in the matter of dairy products, especially of cheese, and the other manufactures.

At Philadelphia, in cheese, Canada received 49 awards out of 195 entries, whilst at Chicago, Canada received 736 awards out of 849 entries. At Philadelphia, the Canadian cheese was very uneven, some made four points over any American cheese, others of very low grade.

It is most gratifying, that almost the entire exhibit from Canada was of such a high character at Chicago that it almost debarred United States cheese from taking awards at all.

In another department Canada has proved herself to have progressed admirably, that is in manufactures. It is true that at the Chicago Exhibition there were not as many Canadian exhibitors as there were at Philadelphia, but the more important and higher character of the exhibits is proved by the larger percentage of awards given to Canadian exhibitors on that occasion, and it is worthy of note that a very eminent authority, the Hon. Robert Thurston, who was chairman of the committee on jurors and awards at Chicago, made a statement which is certainly in the highest degree creditable to Canada. He is from Cornell University, a professor in that university, and was officially connected with the Centennial Exhibition as well, and he stated that he had examined the Canadian exhibit of general and agricultural machinery with very great care, as he had sixteen years before at Philadelphia. In design, construction and smoothness of running, he considered ours equal to any in the exhibition, and he considered that Canada had in these sixteen years shown greater progress than any other nation. I may say that this is a matter of great satisfaction to us, because it is not so very long ago since Canada was dependent upon the neighbouring republic for its agricultural implements, and it is a very unsatisfactory state of things indeed when a country has to depend upon foreign nations for its agricultural machinery. It is less than twenty-five years since Canada—at least the part of it from which I come—was the dumping ground for the agricultural implements of the United States, for mowing machines and reaping machines which were passing out of use in their own country; these machines were dumped upon us and our farmers were using them years after they had become unsaleable in the United States. They purchased them at very high prices indeed, and it is very pleasing that during the last few years our manufacturers have so successfully grappled with this question and placed Canada on an equality with the United States in the matter of agricultural imple-