

## INLAND REVENUE RETURNS.

The sources of the Dominion revenue are of a various character. As taxes upon foreign productions entered into the country, or upon certain home manufactures, they are fiscal in their purpose, as tolls or rents they repay to the Government the cost of construction and maintenance of the public works, for the use of which they are imposed, and, as fees for various kinds of inspection they protect commercial transactions against adulterations and fraud.

The tax on foreign production entered into consumption in the Dominion known as Customs Duties is by far the largest source of revenue, and forms a separate department, while the tax on home manufactures, known as excise, the tolls and rents of public works, and the fees for inspection come within the sphere of the Inland Revenue department, the report of which for the last fiscal year furnishes the subject of the present article.

The total revenue, derived during last year from the various sources: Excise, public works, culling timber, bill stamps, weights and measures, gas and law stamps, amounts to \$6,878,259, an increase of \$268,037, or about 4 per cent on that of the preceding year, although, by the repeal of the Act respecting promissory notes, a small proportion, amounting, for 1881-82, to \$158,493, had been cut off. The excise revenue shows a total of \$6,282,796, an increase of \$346,654 on the year before, extended to all the various manufactures comprised in that division.

The spirits manufactured during the year amount to 4,281,208 proof gallons against 4,028,847 gallons in 1881-82, and the quantity taken for consumption was 3,848,789 proof gallons, or 672,793 gallons in excess of the average quantity taken for consumption during the four years preceding. The quantity of malt manufactured during the year was 85,546,222 lbs as against 70,507,220 lbs for the year 1881-82. Of this quantity 39,587,285 lbs were taken for home consumption and 46,882,486 lbs exported. 36,140,545 lbs of the malt entered for consumption were used in the production of 12,757,444 gallons of malt liquor, the balance being used for distilling purposes.

The quantity of manufactured tobacco taken for consumption during the year amounts to 9,896,064 lbs, an increase of 772,478 lbs on the year 1882. Yet there is a decrease in the amount of revenue of \$17,593, owing to the abolition of the supervision of the cultivation of tobacco,

and the imperfect means possessed by the department for collecting the revenue:

*Canadian Tobacco Statement.*

	Number of lbs on which duty was paid.	Amount of duty.
1881-82	454,884½ lbs.	\$18,195 37
1882-83	178,213 "	6,481 73

The number of packages of Canadian petroleum imported during the year amounted to 172,885, on which the fees collected were \$16,699.46. The importation of American petroleum was 28,780 packages, and the amount of fees \$8,516.60. Canadian refiners complain that, while they are compelled to comply strictly with the law in reference to fire-test and gravity, foreign oil enters the Dominion comparatively free from such restriction. The remedy for such a state of things which endangers life, and is detrimental to commercial interests, would probably be found in the restriction of the import of foreign oil to certain ports where a thorough system of inspection might be enforced.

The manufacture in bond of vinegar and methylated spirits shows an increase in revenue, amounting for the year to \$36,715. The various exhibits under the title of excise revenue give a total increase of \$346,654 as enumerated above. The public works returns show an increase of \$72,909 on the year 1882, as per following statement:

*Receipts from Public Works for 1881-82 and 1882-83.*

	1881-82.	1882-83.	Inc. p.c.
Canal tolls, etc.....	\$304,014	\$343,252	12.50
Slides and booms.....	98,607	126,901	28.70
Hydraulic rents.....	27,487	32,805	19.34
Minor public works..	7,952	8,010	.73
	\$438,060	\$510,968	16.74

We reserve the details of the canal revenue until the publication of the report of canal statistics for the season of navigation.

The increase in the receipts from hydraulic rents will be noticed with pleasure by our readers, as it is not so much rental augmentation as a reduction of arrears, which, as far back as 1880, THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE pointed out as implying negligence somewhere. In 1880 balances due from hydraulic and other rents amounted to \$201,895, and from minor public works to \$69,853. On the 1st of July, 1883, the balance for hydraulic rents were reduced to \$130,787, and for minor public works to \$16,598.36. Among the old arrears entirely wiped out, the overdue rent on the Lachine

Canal of three large manufacturers amounting to \$36,578 has disappeared by payment of \$30,052.85, and an abatement of \$6,525.15, reducing the balance of arrears on the Lachine Canal to \$12,546. In fact, by abatements of \$8,632.19 on Welland Canal, \$6,525.15 on Lachine Canal, and \$1,200 in favor of the Montreal Cotton Co. on the Beauharnois canal, and the cash received, from \$166,374, balance due on the 1st of July, 1882, the total amount in arrears has been brought down to \$130,787.

The cullers' account is yet a source of loss to the Government. The fees accrued having been \$49,560, and the cost of culling exceeds these figures by nearly \$7,000. Some means should be devised to render at least self-supporting a function which is more important to the Lumber trade than to the Government.

## THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA.

The ninth annual report to the shareholders of the operations of this company for the past year exhibits a satisfactory progress and a gratifying increase in its business. The steady advance of the Accident in the confidence of the public, referred to last year has been still more marked during the year under review as may be seen by the following comparison:

	1882.	1883.
Number of policies.....	12,589	19,540
Amount of " .....	\$19,049,700	\$29,180,450
Premiums .....	160,696	282,585
Policy holders' securities.....	339,641	352,122

The extension of the company's field of operations into the United States has been quite successful, the company being now represented by 28 State agents and nearly 3,000 local agents whose persevering efforts have increased the amount covered by the company's policies by \$10,000,000 during the year.

The following shows the progress of the company from the commencement:—

Date.	Gross prems.	Date.	Gross prems.
1874-1875	\$21,015 30	1879.....	\$24,946 76
1876.....	29,096 13	1880.....	31,249 51
1877.....	30,118 05	1881.....	52,213 54
1878.....	31,791 42	1882.....	150,413 66
	1883...		\$282,585 55.

Accident business is transacted in the United States by several hundred associations and yet the amount of business transacted by the Accident during the past year constitutes his company the second largest accident corporation on the continent of America, besides being the only company exclusively devoted to the business. The financial condition of the company has been investigated during the year by the representatives of the States of Massachusetts and Missonri, besides the annual inspection by the Dominion Insurance Superintendent. These reports, highly favorable to the Company's condition, are a justification of the confidence bestowed by the public on the prudent management of its affairs.