

COST OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN CANADA.

The cost of legislation in Canada is charged to the Consolidated Fund Account, which includes expenditures of an ordinary, year by year, nature, while those which are made once for all, such as outlays on permanent works, are charged to capital account.

The expenditure of legislation since 1868 was as follows:

Year.	Cost of Legislation.	Year.	Cost of Legislation
1868-1872.....	\$2,135,347	1889.....	\$701,170
1873.....	614,487	1890.....	932,187
1874.....	784,048	1891.....	595,487
1875.....	572,273	1892.....	1,302,876
1876.....	627,231	1893.....	867,232
1877.....	596,006	1894.....	698,007
1878.....	618,035	1895.....	941,570
1879.....	748,008	1896.....	904,688
1880.....	589,105	1897.....	1,134,773
1881.....	611,376	1898.....	729,829
1882.....	582,200	1899.....	892,354
1883.....	740,768	1900.....	830,302
1884.....	662,767	1901.....	1,172,726
1885.....	649,538	1902.....	991,639
1886.....	1,037,779	1903.....	789,205
1887.....	977,302	1904.....	1,266,795
1888.....	807,425		

Taking these expenditures in groups of years each since 1876, we get the following results:

Years.	Total. s.	No. of Years.	Yearly Average.
1868 to 1875	4,106,155	8	\$21,231
1876 to 1881	3,187,385	5	637,477
1882 to 1885	3,246,649	5	649,329
1886 to 1890	4,455,863	5	891,172
1891 to 1895	4,406,172	5	881,234
1896 to 1900	4,491,946	5	898,389
1901 to 1904	4,220,150	4	1,055,040

The yearly average cost of legislation charged to consolidated fund has risen from a yearly average, 1868 to 1875, of \$521,231 to an average, 1901 to 1904 of \$1,055,040 that is, the cost of legislation has more than doubled in the years from 1900 to 1904, over those in the first 8 years of Confederation.

The increases made in the sessional indemnity, in the salary of the Premier, the grant of a salary to the Leader of the Opposition and the pensions to ex-Cabinet Ministers will add a further sum of about \$340,000, that is, there will be an increase of one-third to the cost of legislation by recent additions to salaries, sessional indemnities and grants for pensions. Besides the sessional indemnity paid to members of the Senate and the House of Commons, there are other outlays chargeable to legislation. The 1902 account stands as follows:

Speaker of the Senate.....	\$ 4,000
Idemnity and Mileage.....	126,284
Salaries and Contingencies.....	76,153
Total for Senate.....	\$206,437
Speaker of the House of Commons.....	4,000
Deputy Speaker.....	2,000
Idemnity and Mileage.....	333,969
Salaries and Contingencies.....	201,475
Total for House of Commons.....	\$541,444

Salaries for Library Staff.....	16,857
Books and Contingencies.....	16,059
Total, Library of Parliament.....	\$32,916
Printing, etc., of Parliament.....	166,201
Miscellaneous.....	44,641
Total Cost of Legislation, 1902.....	\$391,639

If the duration of the several Parliaments held since 1868 is examined, we find the following number of sessions to have been held, with the duration of each Parliament, the date of Opening and Prorogation, and cost per day of the Parliament:

No. of Parliament.	No. of Sessions	Opening and Closing.	Total No. of days each P'ment.	Cost per day \$
1st	5	Nov. '67, June, '72	398	5,365
2nd	2	Mch. '73, Nov. '73	97	6,334
3rd	5	Mch. '74, May, '78	362	8,833
4th	4	Feb. '79, May, '82	379	6,701
5th	4	Feb. '83, June, '86	472	6,548
6th	4	Apl. '87, May, '90	375	8,110
7th	6	Apl. '91, Apl. '96	695	7,640
8th	5	Aug. '96, July, 1900	593	7,570
9th	4	Feb. 1901, Aug. 1904	577	7,314
10th	1	Jany.—July, 1905

The average number of days occupied by the Parliamentary Session has been 101, which includes Sundays. As a large number of the members are usually absent on Saturday and Sunday each week, many indeed on Monday also, besides occasional vacations taken for various purposes, it is a fair estimate to give the average working time of a session to have been about 70 days. Of course, some few members are more attentive to their Parliamentary duties than others.

The average length of the active life of a Parliament, as judged by the record, is 437 days.

The cost of each Parliament since 1868, has averaged \$3,123,830, but the cost of the last one was \$4,220,365. The number of sessions held in the 9 Parliaments from 1868 to 1904 was 39. One Parliament came to a premature end after 2 sessions, one held from March 5, to August 13, 1873, and the other October 23, to November 7, 1873, in which the proceedings were sharp and decisive, the whole number of days occupied being 81 for one session and 16 for the second. Four Parliaments have had 4 sessions, 3, 5 sessions, 1, 6 sessions. The longest session was in 1903, which lasted from March 12, to October 24. The next largest was in 1885, which extended from January 29, to July 20.

It is somewhat notable that the average number of days occupied by the sessions in the first 4 Parliaments, 1868-1882, was 78, in the next 4 Parliaments, 1883-1900, the average length of the sessions was 112 days, and in the 9th Parliament, 1901-1904, the sessions averaged 144 days.

The tendency to lengthening the session developed after the sessional indemnity was raised from \$1,000 to \$1,500, the loquacity of members having been apparently stimulated and encouraged by the extra income they derived from attendance at