

Dominion Finances. The public's continued economy in purchasing from abroad is to be considered as a favourable factor, rather than otherwise, with regard to the country's ultimate progress and welfare. Meanwhile, the decrease in customs revenue adds to the never easy task of conducting national finances. The estimates for next year, and the recent announcement that the Government will give no new aid to railway construction for the time being, indicate a disposition to hold a tighter rein upon expenditures in general.

The financial statement of the Dominion for the first ten months of the current fiscal year, up to the last day of January, shows a total falling off in revenue as compared with last year of \$12,086,636. The total receipts for the ten months were \$68,937,636. The total expenditure on consolidated fund account was \$63,041,215, leaving a surplus of ordinary revenue over ordinary expenditure of \$5,896,421. Capital expenditure for the ten months was \$36,815,549, an increase of \$14,570,040. In the same period the consolidated fund account expenditure increased by \$6,708,681. A decrease of over eleven millions in the customs revenue is responsible for most of the total revenue decrease.

For the month of January the revenue totalled \$6,639,053, a decrease of \$629,260 as compared with January of last year.

The net debt of the Dominion on January 31, was \$308,226,027, an increase during the month of \$16,652,260. In connection with this large increase, it is to be noted that during the month the transfer to the Government was made of six million dollars of indebtedness of the Quebec Bridge Company on the surrender of the latter's bonds, and there were large payments on account of the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway and for Provincial subsidies.

The Harbour Dues. The Council of the Montreal Board of Trade, on Wednesday, passed a resolution protesting vigorously against any increase in the harbour charges of this port. The resolution says:

"That presuming the Harbour Commissioners have been constrained to advocate such increase by the heavy expenditures for harbour improvements, the council would remind the commissioners that the Dominion Government has for a long period of years contemplated assuming the cost of these improvements, and, therefore, that the commissioners should use all their influence with the Government in urging that the time has come for relieving the trade of the country from the charges incident to providing proper harbor facilities for the national port."

This puts the case in a nut-shell. Any increase in port charges to-day would be a retrograde movement most detrimental to the commercial interests of the whole country.

The Suffragettes Again. The London "Suffragettes" did not signally succeed in their intention of making a hostile demonstration against Premier Asquith. They frankly stated that everyone engaged in it, would be undertaking a dangerous duty. The difficulty about the Suffragette's campaign, is that

while their methods are open to criticism their object is all right and sooner or later some British Government will have to extent the franchise to women. Then the methods of all reformers are always open to criticism. A rebel is a patriot who fails, and a patriot is a rebel who succeeds. The blood of the martyrs is not only the seed of the church, it is the seed of all great moral, social and political reforms. The Suffragettes evidently feel that if they do not take the Kingdom by violence they will not take it at all. Their campaign will form an amusing and pathetic chapter in the history of England, but it will be a chapter of substantial progress.

January Foreign Trade. Canada's foreign trade returns for January, show imports for consumption of \$22,586,806, compared with \$23,084,563 last year, and \$26,441,747 in 1907; and exports of domestic produce of \$15,387,322, compared with \$20,407,317 in 1908 and \$16,721,081 in 1907. This makes together with the imports and exports of coin and bullion, a total foreign trade of \$39,177,675, compared with \$47,996,764 one year ago, and \$48,789,299 in 1907.

The returns of the exports of domestic produce for January are as follows:—

	1907	1908	1909
The mine.....	\$ 3,112,332	\$ 2,668,633	\$ 2,639,116
The fisheries.....	1,419,240	1,240,791	1,076,077
The forest.....	2,464,365	1,476,940	1,637,191
Animals and their produce	3,835,908	4,191,300	3,010,514
Agriculture.....	3,437,247	8,343,386	4,553,139
Manufactures.....	2,447,572	2,544,709	2,471,201
Miscellaneous.....	4,417	1,558	84
Total.....	\$16,721,081	\$20,467,817	\$15,387,322

For the ten months ending January 31, the return shows merchandise entered for consumption of \$231,247,039, compared with \$301,251,524 last year, and domestic merchandise exported of \$209,970,509, compared with \$214,380,633 last year, making altogether a total of \$441,217,548, compared with \$515,632,187 last year. The coin and bullion imported during the ten months amounted to \$9,824,723, compared with \$6,065,196 last year. The coin and bullion exported amounted to \$1,413,907, compared with \$16,160,852 in 1908. The exports of foreign merchandise were \$15,919,660, compared with \$15,423,711.

Politics and the Tariff. A report on the British and Canadian woollen industries was lately made to the Government by Mr. Costello of the Customs Department, and in it he stated that he is firmly of the opinion that the Canadian woollen industries do not need any more protection. Some of the protectionist organs have pointed out that the responsibility of determining this question rests not with Mr. Costello, but with the Government. This is obviously true, under present conditions, but it is worth considering whether it is not high time for the details of the tariff to be taken out of politics. The responsibility for the general principles of the tariff, high or low protection, revenue, reciprocity and so on, must always remain with the government of the day. But a tariff Commission composed of business experts free from political, local, class, or personal interests, charged with the responsibility of arranging the details of the schedule, could do more