

An examination of the expenditures in the revenue-collecting departments proves this. The most important of these is the customs department, for its functions, as is the case with excise department, are almost purely of a revenue-collecting nature.

The expenditure in the customs department increased in the two years from \$2,443,846 to \$3,849,083, or at the rate of 57 per cent, despite the fact that customs outposts and offices have been organized to a high degree ever since there was a tariff.

Expenditure on the collection of excise increased from \$755,967 to \$858,163, or at the rate of 13 per cent.

Post Office expenditure increased from \$9,172,035 to \$12,822,058, or at the rate of 39 per cent.

Expenditure on railways and canals increased from \$12,330,462 to \$14,935,138, or at the rate of 21 per cent.

Expenditure on trade and commerce has increased from \$158,938 to \$1,805,441, or at the rate of 905 per cent.

Expenditure on the inspection of staples has increased from \$226,894 to \$450,737, or at the rate of 98 per cent.

Expenditure on weights, measures, gas and electric light inspection increased from \$205,224 to \$258,095, or at the rate of 25 per cent.

What Might have been Saved.

Even a casual figuring of the growth in the yearly expenditure of the various government departments as shown in the foregoing will indicate that the average increase since 1912 is thirty per cent. How far it has been justified in bettered or increased service in these departments through any increase in business in these years can be safely left to the public to judge. There can be only one opinion.

Prior to 1911, and even after it, it has been a favorite sport of members of the Borden Nationalist-Conservative government to decry the record of the late Liberal administration as one of recklessness and extravagance. But it is quite plain that had the present government not exceeded even the highest expenditures recorded in the days of Liberal government, it would have saved the country, on ordinary expenditure alone, in the cost of "running the country," no less a sum than \$40,000,000.

The preachings and the practices of the Borden government are two very different things!

The Percentage Increase.

To sum up. The increase in the two years in the departments that spend money but do not earn or collect revenue works out as follows:

Public Works.....	Increase	84	per cent.
Immigration.....	"	30	" "
Agriculture, Arts, Statistics.....	"	106	" "
Civil Government	"	15	" "
Administration of Justice.....	"	7½	" "

Fisheries.....	Increase	45	per cent.
Quarantine Stations	"	24	" "
Indian Affairs.....	"	24	" "
Penitentiaries.....	"	40	" "
Dominion Police...	"	45	" "
Labor Department	"	50	" "
Miscellaneous Ex- penditures.....	"	145	" "

In the "revenue earning" or "revenue collecting" departments, where costs should be governed considerably by collections, and where, as is well known, revenues and collections have been falling rather than rising, the increases work out as follows:

Customs.....	Increase	57	per cent.
Excise.....	"	13	" "
Post Office.....	"	39	" "
Railways & Canals	"	21	" "
Trade & Commerce	"	905	" "
Inspection of Staples	"	98	" "
Inspection of weights & measures, Gas & Electric inspection	"	25	" "

Where is the justification for these increased expenditures?

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ELECTIONS.

The revulsion against Toryism and the swing toward Liberalism so evident throughout Canada and seen in its full force a few months ago in Manitoba gave the Mathieson Conservative government in Prince Edward Island a close shave for existence in the elections on September 16th. The Conservative majority of 26 in a house of 30, won less than four years ago when only two Liberals were elected, was reduced last month to a bare and still problematical majority of 4. The returns show 17 "straight" Conservatives, 1 Independent Conservative and 13 Liberals elected. Several government candidates succeeded by very small majorities and there are among those elected at least two men who have not been able to see eye to eye with Premier Mathieson and whose course when the house meets will be watched with a good deal of interest.

Strongly entrenched in power, with all the election prestige that the holding of 28 out of 30 seats could mean, and with every help from the Federal government that could be afforded, the Mathieson government barely escaped defeat in a contest which, while it involved many local issues, showed that in the main it was a fight between Toryism and Liberalism. The unprecedented turnover is in keeping with the sentiment that is evident in all parts of the country.

Just prior to the elections in Prince Edward Island there were many indications in British Columbia that the McBride government was on the eve of going to the country and testing the strength of the great wave of popular distrust which has shown itself in the past year. Since September 16th, little has been heard of election in British Columbia in the near future.