

PROGRESS OF CANADA.

The Story of a Country's Marvellous Growth.
Told in Figures.

The more the figures issued by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and summarized on the next page, are dissected; the better can be realized Canada's remarkable progress since 1871 in every conceivable direction.

Banking figures most fairly represent a nation's financial quality. Thirty-five years ago, the assets of Canadian chartered banks were \$121,014,395, and last year, \$757,988,531. This is an increase in that period of 526 per cent., or a yearly average of 17.5 per cent. The greatest jump was between 1891 and 1901, when the banks' assets practically doubled themselves, changing from \$269,491,153 to \$528,304,110. In the same period, their liabilities rose from \$188,337,504 to \$417,320,761, an increase of 121 per cent. This, of course, was the greatest epoch-marking decade in Canadian history, for correspondingly large increases are found under several other heads. The population in those ten years increased 538,076, the greatest progress since 1871. As the figures for the first half of the ten years, 1901-1901 are not complete, it is scarcely possible to show how far the beginning of the twentieth century is outstripping the end of the nineteenth. The following table clearly shows the growing wealth of the average Canadian.

	1871	1881	1891	1901	1905
Population	2,689,257	4,142,810	4,833,239	5,371,315	5,871,315
Total Bk. Deposits	\$68,121,331	\$171,185,009	\$237,015,474	\$90,949,482	\$555,640,068
Deposits per cap.	\$25.	\$41.	\$49.	\$17.	\$95.

Population figures for 1905 are approximately arrived at by adding 300,000 to the 1901 returns, which is a fair four years' margin, considering the population increased only 538,076 in ten years, as noted above. Were the exact figures obtainable, it would probably be found that last year's deposit per head was even greater than \$95.

Public Debt.

Fairly regular increases in revenue and expenditure (consolidated fund) are noted. The gross public debt has varied curiously. From 1871 to 1902, the debt gradually increased, except in the ten years 1887-1891, when it made a leap from \$289,899,230 to \$354,732,433, an increase of 4 per cent. In 1903, it fell from \$366,358,477 to \$361,344,098, a decrease of 1.36 per cent. This drop is rather unique in debt records, as public debt has an unfortunate habit of ever growing, and never lessening. The gross debt of the Dominion now amounts to \$378,000,000. Amongst its biggest items are the \$75,000,000 debt of the four provinces taken over in Confederation year; a sum of \$63,000,000 spent on the C.P.R.; \$70,000,000 on canals; \$70,000,000 on Intercolonial and other Government railways; \$70,000,000 on land surveys; and \$30,000,000 representing new Provincial debts. A few millions only have been spent in warfare, and that in the suppression of a rebellion. Within the next four years, loans amounting approximately to \$135,000,000 are to be met. Sinking funds amounting to approximately \$30,000,000 in Canadian securities, are available. After 1913, no further loans will mature until 1938.

The following table shows the proportion per head of the net public debt.

	1871	1881	1891	1901	1905
Population	2,689,257	4,142,810	4,833,239	5,371,315	5,871,315
Net Public Debt	\$77,763,518	\$155,395,280	\$237,809,030	\$266,224,166	\$266,224,166
Debt per cap.	\$29.	\$37.	\$49.	\$50.	\$45.

In 1902, the gross public debt was \$366,358,477; in 1905, \$377,078,579, an increase of 3 per cent. In 1902, the net public debt was \$271,829,090; in 1905, \$266,224,166, a decrease of 2 per cent.

Insurance.

Last year, 718,081 life insurance policies were accounted for to the superintendent of insurance. Twenty-four years ago, only 62,857 life policies were in force; thus in that period they increased 1,058 per cent. This is an amazing increase; but comparing the 1901 population with the number of policies in force, approximately only 90 of every thousand people were insured. This rate of but 9 per cent. is some what misleading in two or three ways. First, women and children are not, as a rule, insured. Secondly, many policies are sold by Canadian companies in other countries. Thirdly, the average number of policies held by insured men, is probably about two.

The most striking feature of loan companies is the bound which their business took between 1881 and 1901. In the former year, loans were issued to the value of \$64,408,542, and in the latter year, \$118,082,219, an increase of 70.6 per cent. During the succeeding thirteen years, the loan business increased only 27.8 per cent.

Money orders issued, advanced from \$4,546,434 in 1871, to \$32,349,475 in 1905. Each ten years has recorded an average increase of 40 per cent. The revenue received on account of these orders was, as far as can be gathered, exceeded

by the expenditure every year until 1903, since when the balance has been on the right side. The average annual profits on money orders for the three years 1903, 1904, 1905 was \$302,760. The profits of 1905 were 61 per cent. in excess of those of 1904.

Canada grows on her lines of communication. In 1905, there were 20,487 miles of steam railways; in 1871, only 2,695, a mileage increase in 34 years of 660 per cent. The mileage increase of the 1881 figures over the 1871, was 172 per cent.; of 1891 over 1881, 88 per cent.; of 1901 over 1891, 38 per cent.; and of 1905 over 1901, 14 per cent. It could hardly be expected that the large mileage percentage increases of the early years could be continuous, but there is more railroad building than ever. The railroads are making a network of the provinces, and fifteen years hence, a comparison of the total length of track with that of 1871, will produce an astonishing result.

It is heartsome to notice how much more work the railroads have now to do than formerly. The gross railroad earnings increased in 34 years by 63 per cent., but the gross earnings of 1905 were 40 per cent. larger than those of 1901. The increase of those five years was only \$14,854,651, or 25 per cent., less than the increase registered in the thirty years from 1871 to 1901. The greatest ten years' increase recorded was during the period 1891-1901, when the gross earnings changed from \$48,192,099 to \$72,898,749, an increase of 51 per cent. In four years, electric railway mileage has increased 18 per cent. In 1905, there were 20,487 miles of steam railways to 793 or 4 per cent. of electric, a difference of 19,694 miles. Electric traction is yet in its infancy; steam traction, in its prime. The next decade will doubtless show a large increase in electric traffic. Power from Niagara and other waterfalls will be utilized, which will tend not only to the increase of new electric roads, but to the electrification of many roads over which steam power is at present run. The earnings of the Toronto Street Railway give a very good idea of progress in this respect. The receipts of July, 1906, were \$120,597 in excess of those of July, 1901, an increase of 80.06 per cent. Those of July, 1906, show an increase of \$28,510, or 11.7 per cent., over the same month of the previous year. While the earnings have greatly risen, the mileage has increased only to a small extent.

Trade.

The custom duties collected in 1905 were nearly four times as large as in 1871, and nearly twice as large as in 1891. The 1905 figures show an increase over those of the previous year of \$1,069,991, or 2 per cent. The excise revenue collected shows somewhat similar increases.

Canadian total trade in the ten years from 1891 to 1901 jumped \$171,432,217, or 79 per cent. The total trade of 1905 was less than 1904 by \$2,581,749, or 5 per cent. The drop was in the exports. But the total trade of 1906 (not shown in the table), was 17.1 per cent. in excess of 1905, an increase of 130 per cent. over 1897, and for the first time over half a billion dollars.

Total shipping showed a steady increase until 1904, when it fell 2 per cent., and further dropped in 1905 by .06 per cent. Both sea-going and coasting shipping were responsible for this decrease. Of course, there has been a decline of the shipping in the Maritime Provinces, and at present we are not a ship owning or a shipbuilding nation to the extent we shall be. Coal and iron deposits along the Atlantic Coast will surely lead presently to the construction of iron ships there. Inland water traffic in 1905 showed an increase of 7 per cent.

CLEARING HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures of the Canadian Clearing Houses for the weeks ending with 23rd August, 16th August, 1906, and 24th August, 1905:

	Aug. 23rd.	Aug. 16th.	Aug. 24, '05.
Montreal	\$27,635,200	\$26,679,439	\$23,666,393
Toronto	20,364,047	21,640,718	8,415,114
Winnipeg	8,266,385	8,730,770	4,747,801
Halifax	1,647,260	1,059,155	1,420,376
Hamilton	1,403,377	1,506,131	1,154,008
St. John	1,208,252	1,195,942	928,720
Vancouver	2,057,470	2,720,486	1,831,961
Victoria	740,202	881,389	626,179
Quebec	1,526,143	1,700,938	1,707,447
London	926,542	1,185,017	975,492
Ottawa	2,815,078	2,794,015	2,265,743
Calgary			
Edmonton		710,022	
Totals	\$69,129,956	\$71,404,931	\$57,748,174

The following Statistics, co

Capital paid-up—Chart'd Banks
Circulation—
Dominion Notes
Chartered Bank Notes
Chartered Banks—
Assets
Liabilities

Deposits, Chartered Banks
Deposits, P.O. Savings Banks
Deposits, Gov. Savings Banks
Deposits, Special Savings B'ks

Total Deposits

Revenue—Consolidated Fund
Expenditure—Consolidated Fund
" —Gross
Public Debt—Gross
" —Net
" —Interest paid on

Insurance—
Fire Insurance in force
Premiums received
Life Insurance—
Policies in force
Amount in force
Premiums received
Loan Cos. & Build. Soc.

Assets—
Total Loans
Property owned

Total assets
Liabilities—
Capital paid up
Reserved fund
Deposits
Debentures payable
Other Liabilities

Total Liabilities

Money orders issued
Revenue
Expenditure
Railways, electric—
Miles in operation
Earnings—Gross
Working Expenses
Railways, steam—
Miles in operation
Earnings—Gross
Working expenses
Customs Duties collected
Excise Revenue collected
Imports, Total—
Dutiable Goods
Free Goods

Total (mdse)
Coin and Bullion

Total imports

Exports—Home Produce—
Mine
Fisheries
Forest
Animal produce
Agricultural products
Manufactures
Miscellaneous

Home produce

Coin and Bullion

Total Exports

Total Trade

Shipping—Sea-going Tons
Coasting
Inland water

Total Shipping