

WHERE THE MONEY GOES.

How the Cost of "Running the Country" Increases.

THE cost of Government in Canada, the ordinary controllable cost of "running the country," as it is usually expressed, has risen from \$12 per head of population in 1911 to \$16.90 for every man, woman and child, in 1915. Nothing in the way of figures could more clearly illustrate how needless have been the increases in expenditure of this kind by the present Government. Increasing totals of expenditure might have been explained and justified if at the same time it could have been shown that there was a corresponding increase in population, in trade and in revenues, and in the business of the country generally. But there is no such explanation and no such excuse for the Borden Government, and the per capita cost of administration shows this most clearly.

The Mounting Per Capita Cost.

In 1891, with a population of 4,833,239, the cost of running the country was \$36,343,567, or \$7.50 for every head of population.

In 1901, with a population of 5,371,315, the cost of running the country was \$46,866,367, or \$8.75 for every head of population.

In 1911, with a population of 7,206,643, the cost of administering the country was \$87,774,198, or \$12 for every head of population.

In 1915, with an estimated population of not more than 8,000,000, the cost of running the country was \$135,523,206, or \$16.90 for every head of population.

It is evident that if the same rate of increase continues for the remaining six years of the decennial period the per capita expenditure when the next census is taken will be over \$20. This, remember, has nothing to do with war.

Where Did the Money Go?

Where has the money gone? Where did the increased expenditure show in a volume that raised the cost of "running the country" by \$4.90 a year for every man, woman and child in the Dominion since the Borden government took power in 1911?

In order to thoroughly appreciate these increases during the past few years, and to ascertain where saving can be effected, it is necessary to examine the expenditures of the various departments in some detail. The total expenditures of the departments for the year ending March 31, 1915, are not yet available, and it would not be fair to take the estimated expenditures, though those in every case are higher than they were during the preceding year. We shall simply take the expenditures for the fiscal year, 1913-14, and compare them with those for the fiscal year 1911-12.

Taking, first, the non-revenue-earning departments, the following startling comparisons are to be found:

Public works expenditure on consolidated account increased from ten millions in 1911 to nineteen millions in 1914, or at the rate of

84 per cent! (This does not include public works expenditure on capital account, which increased from four millions to ten millions, or at the rate of 150 per cent!)

Immigration expenditure increased from \$1,364,999 to \$1,893,297, or at the rate of 30 per cent, though immigration was on the decline.

Civil government expenditure increased from \$4,774,678 to \$5,607,794, or at the rate of 15 per cent.

Expenditure on arts, agriculture and statistics increased from \$1,567,021 to \$3,224,779, or at the rate of 106 per cent.

Expenditure on the administration of justice increased from \$1,300,513 to \$1,399,456, or at the rate of 7½ per cent.

Expenditure on fisheries increased from \$843,856 to \$1,229,519, or at the rate of 45 per cent—an increase, again, whose justification must depend upon the results obtained.

Expenditure on quarantine stations increased from \$182,392 to \$220,927, or at the rate of 24 per cent, though why such an increase was necessary, in view of the fact that immigration has not increased during the period, it is hard to say.

Expenditure on Indian affairs increased from \$1,756,565 to \$2,182,470, or at the rate of 24 per cent, though Canada's Indians, if not a decreasing quantity, are at least a fixed quantity so far as their administration is concerned.

Expenditures on penitentiaries increased from \$653,482 to \$910,413, or at the rate of nearly 40 per cent, though there was no such increase in crime or in the number of prisoners in the Dominion during the period.

Expenditures on Dominion police increased from \$82,446 to \$119,892, or at the rate of 45 per cent. Such an increase might have been justified during war times, when many additional men have had to be taken on, but there was no apparent justification for it in 1914.

Expenditure on labor department administration increased from \$53,399 to \$80,474, or at the rate of 50 per cent. It is for labor to say whether this increase was justified or not.

Miscellaneous expenditure, which includes a variety of matters, increased from \$769,163 to \$1,109,361, or at the rate of 143 per cent.

And even naval service expenditure increased by 5 per cent!

Less Revenue—Costs More to Collect.

Under the head of "Collection of Revenue," further heavy increases during the two years, by no means justified by a commensurate increase in the revenues collected, are evident. The total cost of collection increased from \$28,256,773 in 1911-12 to \$39,084,652 in 1913-14, an advance of nearly 40 per cent. During that period total receipts increased from 136 millions in 1911-12 to 163 millions in 1913-14, or an advance of only about 20 per cent. In 1912 it cost \$20 to collect \$100 worth of revenue; in 1914 it cost nearly \$24 to collect the same amount.