

The total amount of debt payable in England on the 30th June last was \$172,247,082.55, and the several investments for Sinking Funds amounted to \$17,461,623.98.

As I mentioned last year I thought it advisable to leave out a great number of the details comprised in Part II of previous Public Accounts, that is to say, the several expenditure statements, as the Auditor General reports fully on all such matters. This alteration has been carried into effect and the expenditure statements now transmitted herewith are only those under the management of this Department.

I stated in the preface to the last Public Accounts that a re-arrangement would have to be made in the Manitoba Debt Account. This has now been accomplished and the several entries passed and the debt, as allowed by the recent Acts of Parliament, has been credited to the Province.

I have only further to point out in considering the Dominion Debt that during the Session of 1886 Parliament authorized further payments of moneys to the extent of \$2,073,065, as subsidies to Railway Companies, in addition to the sums authorized for similar purposes in previous years.

I am sorry to be again obliged to state that no settlement has been made with respect to the old accounts of the Province of Canada. This has been largely owing to exceptional circumstances, but I sincerely trust that before another twelve months are over these matters will be disposed of. Considering the interests involved I respectfully suggest that measures be taken at as early a date as possible to have these accounts settled.

During the year the Dominion imported silver to the value of \$185,000, and copper to the value of \$23,000, the profits on these operations being \$55,150.11, being about equal to the salaries of the Department during the year.

The business of the Department is still growing as will be seen by the statements submitted herewith for the past fiscal year as compared with previous years. I further submit a statement of the cost of the establishment, and I am glad to be able again to report that the work has been met without increasing the staff.

I have only in conclusion, to state that the officers of the Department have assisted me faithfully and well in disposing of the business connected therewith, and through their efforts no arrears have been allowed to accumulate.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. M. COURTNEY,
Deputy Minister of Finance.