

In other words, it cost \$5,809,198 more to collect the Customs revenue of the Dominion during the first four years of Tory rule, than it did during the last four years of Liberal rule. The percentage of increase is about 62 per cent.

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

How a Surplus was Changed to Deficit.

Under the administration of Hon. L. P. Pelletier and his successors the Post Office Department deteriorated from surplus producing to deficit producing. In 1911-12, the last year, of Liberal rule, the department contributed to the treasury a surplus of \$1,310,219. In 1913-14, under Pelletier rule, a deficit of \$2,914,641 was recorded. The reason may be found in the following comparison of expenditures:

Expenditures of Post Office Department.

1908-1912		1912-1916	
1908-09-----	\$6,592,386	1912-13-----	\$10,882,804
1909-10-----	7,215,337	1913-14-----	12,822,068
1910-11-----	7,954,222	1914-15-----	15,961,191
1911-12-----	9,172,035	1915-16-----	16,009,138
Total-----	\$30,933,980	Total-----	\$55,675,191

Excess of expenditure under four years of Conservative rule over that for last four years of Liberal rule, \$24,741,211, or an increase of about 80 per cent.

By dint of the imposition of an additional tax of fifty and one hundred per cent on all letters, the department has again pulled itself out of the hole. But for this the people are responsible, and not the government, as the expenditures for 1915-16 will indicate. No part of these increases, it must be noted, are due to the war. All war expenditures under this, as under other departments, are charged to war account.

WAR "ECONOMY"

When the war broke out the government made pious pledges of economy in all domestic expenditures. For the first two years of the war (for which, only, official figures are yet available) at least no evidence of such "economy" is appreciable. If Liberal expenditures in prosperous peace times were criminal, then what is to be said of Conservative expenditures which in war times exceeded those of the Liberals?

During the two fiscal war years, 1914-15 and 1915-16, the present government exceeded the expenditures during the two last "high-water" Liberal years as follows:

On Consolidated Account by-----	\$79,938,294
On Capital Account by-----	18,221,522
On Railway Subsidies by-----	6,691,171

Total excess over Liberals-----\$104,850,987