

Accounts, the actual increase of debt under the Liberals was a trifle over three million dollars.

The Government were able to make liberal expenditures on great public works without imposing additional burdens on the people by reason of the fact that they have had magnificent surpluses of revenues over ordinary expenditures, whereas in Conservative days deficits were too frequent, particularly towards the close of their career.

With a very buoyant revenue the Government could have arranged it so that the surplus could have been applied towards reducing the debt piled up by the Tories, and they might have gained credit in some quarters for doing so, but they deemed it a wiser policy to spend the money in developing transportation facilities, and in other public works of a beneficial character. Being a body of business men, they approached the national questions that came before them in a practical way, and they did not hesitate to embark in large enterprises, involving heavy expenditure, when they felt sure of their ground, and were certain that the present and future interests of the country demanded them.

We will now look at the details.

To proceed :—

The capital expenditure of the *Public Works Department* in the seven years' period under review totalled \$6,445,766. Of this amount \$2,638,311 were spent on improvement of the River St. Lawrence, chiefly below Montreal, the object being to provide a clear, deep channel down the river to Quebec, and to make the route as safe and freely navigable as possible.

Improvements were effected in the harbor of Montreal to the amount of \$503,535, in addition to the improvements made by the Harbor Commissioners, who are assisted by the Government.

There was expended on extensive breakwater works now in process of construction at Port Colborne harbor—the entrance to the Welland Canal, and a most important shipping point—the sum of \$447,440.

In the Yukon \$1,940,310 were spent in the construction of public buildings, trails, roads, bridges and telegraph lines. A telegraph line was constructed connecting the Yukon with the older parts of Canada.

In consequence largely of the fire in the winter of 1896-7, which destroyed a portion of the Government buildings at Ottawa, there was a heavy