

The Taxation Record

Taxes More Than Doubled by a Government Pledged to Reduce the Peoples' Burdens

A FEW GRIT PLEDGES

"We view with alarm the large increase of the annual expenditure of the Dominion and the consequent undue taxation of the people."—*Liberal Platform 1893.*

"The Government takes \$36,000,000 or more in the form of taxation every year—they take it from you, from me, from all the people of the Country—every pound of nails, every axe, every yard of cloth you buy from your merchant is a medium through which you pay to the Dominion Government—If they, (the people) understood, the present Government would be chased out of power as the robbers were chased out of the Temple"—*Sir Wilfrid Laurier 1893.*

"We are the party of low taxation."—*Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1895.*

TAXES MULTIPLIED BY TWO

Hundreds of such declarations against high taxation and numerous promises of relief, were made by Sir Wilfrid and his Ministers before they took office. What have they given us?

Comparison of taxation in 1896, 1906 and 1908.

	1896 Conservative.	1906 Liberal.	1908 Liberal.
Customs...	\$19,833,279	\$46,064,598	\$57,332,646
Excise....	7,926,006	14,010,220	15,690,400
Total...	\$27,759,285	\$60,074,818	\$73,023,046

Tax per head \$ 5 46 \$ 10 00 \$ 11 70
Increase 1908 over 1896....\$45,263,761. or 163 p.c.

Now, let us look at the total taxes collected in ten years under Conservative and under Liberal rule:

Total taxes collected by Conservatives in ten years, 1897-96.....	\$287,931,372
Total taxes collected by Liberals in ten years, 1897-1906.....	430,329,802
Excess taken by Liberal over Conservative government.....	142,398,430

So, as regards the amount of taxes, there can be no doubt of the vast increase made. The taxes in 1896 amounted to \$27,759,000. Let us see how this amount has been exceeded under Liberal rule:

In 1896 Taxation under Conservatives \$ 27,759,000	
In 1897 this amount was exceeded by..	899,000
In 1898 this amount was exceeded by..	1,817,000
In 1899 this amount was exceeded by..	7,199,000
In 1900 this amount was exceeded by..	10,483,000
In 1901 this amount was exceeded by..	10,984,000
In 1902 this amount was exceeded by..	15,630,000
In 1903 this amount was exceeded by..	21,256,000
In 1904 this amount was exceeded by..	25,902,000
In 1905 this amount was exceeded by..	26,261,000
In 1906 this amount was exceeded by..	32,315,000
In 1908 this amount was exceeded by..	45,264,000
Total excess in 11 years above given	198,000,000
Total excess in 11 years and 9 months 1897-1907.....	\$228,745,000

The year 1907 was omitted in the table as owing to fiscal changes it was only 9 months. The taxation for that period was \$51,565,585 or \$23,806,300 more than the whole twelve months of 1896.

TAXATION PER FAMILY

In 1901 there were 1,070,747 families in Canada. There are hardly 1,250,000 families now. The number in 1896 was 908,882.

Year	No. of Families.	Taxation per family.
1896	908,882	\$27.68
1908	1,250,000	58.88
Increase per family.....		\$1.20

OUR DAILY TAXES

The following comparison of taxation between 1896 and 1908 is easy to understand.

	1896	1908
Total taxation for year.	\$27,759,279	\$73,023,046
Taxation per week.....	533,827	1,404,280
Taxation per day, Sundays included.....	76,261	200,612

To-day the average Canadian family is paying much more in Dominion Government taxes than it is paying for bread.

TAXATION INCREASED BY HIGHER PRICES

As the customs duty is based on the import price of goods the rise in price means an increase in the tax. The duty is added to the cost paid by the importer. He takes his profit on both the invoice price and on the duty. Then comes the retailer who is obliged to take his profit on the increased cost to him by reason both of the higher original price and the higher duty which it causes. Now in ten years the average price of articles used in the daily life of people has increased by at least 40 per cent.

The following table shows that on a purchase of goods valued in 1896 at \$100, with the nominal rate of duty unchanged, the consumer will now pay \$65.78 more than he would have paid in 1896. The table allows 10 per cent. profit to the importer and 15 per cent. to the retailer.

	Invoice price.	Duty p.c.	Cost to Importer.	Cost to Consumer.
1896.....	\$100	30	\$130	\$164.45
1908.....	140	42	182	230.23
Difference....	40	12	52	65.78

HOW TO JUDGE TAXATION

Hon. Mr. Paterson, Minister of Customs tries to make light of the increase in taxation. But let us apply his own test. In 1894 Mr. Paterson said, referring to the trade tables:

"One of the columns shows the amount of customs duties paid per head of the population. That is the way to measure your taxation. * * * Take the sum last year, it was \$4.26 per head.—Hansard, 1894, page 356.

Mr. Paterson was then in Opposition and the Liberal Conservatives were in power. He declared that the amount of customs duty collected per head was the proper measure of the burden.—He complained of the rate of \$4.26. What has Mr. Paterson to say to this?

Customs taxes, Lib. Con. 1896.....	\$3.94 per head.
Customs taxes, Liberal, 1906.....	7.70 " "
Customs taxes, Liberal, 1907-8....	9.20 " "