

than in actual consumption. The average per capita consumption was as follows:—

Spirits	Gall.	1·026
Beer	do	2·920
Wine	do	·130
Tobacco	Lbs.	2·173

We come now to the expenditure of the year.

Mr. FOSTER. Before going to the expenditure of the year, can my hon. friend tell me what amount of the increase is due to the Jubilee stamps of 1896-97?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I have not included that in my statement, but I shall be glad to give it later on. The post office revenues in the public accounts show it in general terms. I shall furnish it later on if the hon. gentleman desires.

The expenditure on consolidated revenue reached \$38,349,759, being an increase of \$1,400,617 over that of the previous year. Taking up the details of the outlay, I find that in the following services there is an increased expenditure:

Interest on public debt	\$143,233
Charges of management.....	29,905
Sinking funds.....	46,526
Premium, discount and exchange...	36,833
Civil government.....	22,218
Administration of justice.....	16,491
Dominion Police	1,085
Legislation	230,084
Penitentiaries	24,370
Arts, agriculture and statistics.....	13,512
Immigration	7,239
Quarantine	24,914
Pensions	4,801
Militia	530,874
Public Works, Consolidated Fund..	163,949
Railways and canals.....	7,961
Mail subsidies and steamship sub- ventions	18,895
Ocean and river service.....	1,805
Marine hospitals	1,447
Fisheries	16,336
Geological Survey.....	14,331
Subsidies to provinces.....	2,394
Indians	27,655
Miscellaneous	9,392
Customs	48,912
Post Office	124,467
Trade and Commerce	5,141

On the other hand, there have been decreases on the following:—

Superannuation	\$ 3,439
Mounted Police	6,852
Lighthouse and coast service.....	20,314
Scientific institutions	1,705
Government of the North-west Ter- ritories	10,167
Excise	6,443
Weights and measures and gas....	6,150
Railways and Canals, collection....	100,535
Dominion lands.....	8,492
Public Works, collection.....	11,892

The main increases will be found to be in the interest on public debt, legislation, militia, public works, and post office, and the causes operating in these cases were explained in my remarks of the 22nd of

Mr. FIELDING.

April last year and are sufficiently well known. I need not refer to them further than to say that they are the direct result of the apparent economy accomplished by my predecessor in 1895-96, an economy, which I am justified in saying was only apparent, because I think hon. gentlemen themselves will admit that it was not possible to continue the expenditure on the figures of that year. Indeed, hon. gentlemen on the other side, by the remarks they have made on these subjects, have frequently admitted as much.

In concluding my observations upon the business of the fiscal year of 1896-97, ending the 30th of June last, let me express the hope that my hon. friends opposite will allow me to congratulate them on the very happy failure of some of the very gloomy predictions which they made respecting that year. It may be remembered that in the closing hours of the first session of this Parliament, my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) and my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) made very strong attacks upon the financial position of the Government, and predicted that very direful things would happen in the first year of Liberal administration. I do not propose to detain the House with lengthy quotations from their remarks, but I may summarize their predictions very briefly. My hon. friends stated that we were entering upon a year of reckless expenditure which could only end in financial disaster. They declared that within that current year of 1896-97, I would be obliged to borrow at least \$10,000,000, and that I would have to go on the money market under conditions that would greatly damage our public credit. They will, I hope, be gratified to learn that during that current year we did not have to go on the general money market at all; that our total temporary borrowing, in the usual way of treasury bills, did not amount to ten million dollars or even half of ten million dollars; and that the only borrowing in which we indulged, over and above the renewal of a loan contracted by my predecessor, was less than three million dollars, and that when at a subsequent and proper time we did proceed to place a loan on the London market, instead of going with a damaged credit, as my hon. friends predicted, we went under favourable conditions and met with gratifying success.

They also stated that we would not be able to come out of the year's operations with a deficit of less than \$3,250,000. As late as the month of April last, my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Finance modified his calculation, but even then he predicted that we could not come out of the year with a deficit of less than \$2,000,000. He will, I am sure, be glad to learn that we came out of the year with a deficit, not of \$3,250,000, not of \$2,000,000, but of the modest sum of \$519,000. My hon. friend said