

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of Canada is a heavy burden and a serious drag upon our progress, and the gross interest charge, amounting for the year 1895 to \$10,466,294, is an onerous annual drain which can only be reduced by the diminution of the public debt. This debt has been recklessly incurred, and the spending of the money has no doubt been a pleasant pastime. The payment of the debt will be a different matter, and will cost effort, self-denial, economy and sacrifice.

On June 30th, 1895, the gross public debt amounted to \$318,048,754. From this amount, according to the Public Accounts, is to be deducted assets to the amount of \$64,973,827, leaving the net debt at that date \$253,074,927. This sum is equal to a charge of \$50 per head upon each individual in the Dominion, and is a mortgage of \$10 per acre on each acre of improved land in the Dominion. The net debt has increased over \$112,500,000 since Mr. Mackenzie went out of office in 1878.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE HAS INCREASED ALARMINGLY.

Since Confederation in 1867, the public expenditure has increased alarmingly. Commencing with \$13,486,092 in 1867-8, it had risen to \$38,132,000 in 1894-5. On July 1st, 1868, the estimated population of the Dominion was 3,520,000. On July 1st, 1895, the estimated population was but little over 5,000,000, showing an increase of population during the period of a fraction over forty-two per cent., while the increase of expenditure for the same period was \$24,646,000, or over 180 per cent. The increase of the net debt during the same period was \$170,454,538, or 225 per cent.

Mr. Mackenzie came into office November 8th, 1873. The expenditure for that fiscal year amounted to \$23,316,316; 1877-8 was his last full fiscal year in office, and the expenditure for that year was \$23,503,158. An increase for the term of only \$186,842. For a portion of the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1879, Mr. Mackenzie's administration was responsible, as it held office till October 10th, 1878, making three months and ten days of the year.

The total annual ordinary expenditure for the Domi-

nion in 1878 was \$23,503,000

The total ordinary admitted expenditure in 1895.... 38,132,000

Excess of expenditure over what it was when Mr.

Mackenzie left office..... 14,629,000

In 1874 the total ordinary expenditure was \$23,316,000 and in 1879 it was \$24,455,000. During the Liberal regime, therefore, the increase of expenditure was, during the five years, only a little over a million dollars..

The total taxes collected in 1878 amounted to \$17,841,000, and in 1894 to \$27,579,000. Outside of taxes the revenue between 1878 and 1894 only increased by \$4,262,000. (Page xxxii., Pub. Accts., 1894.)

Comparison in Expenditure, 1878, 1893.

Service.	1878.	1893.
Interest on debt.....	\$ 7,048,883	\$ 9,806,888
Charges on debt.....	189,566	212,690
Justice	564,920	736,457
Arts, Agriculture and Statistics.....	92,365	258,635
Civil Government.....	823,369	1,367,570
Fisheries.....	93,262	482,381
Geological Survey.....	96,049	124,512
Immigration.....	154,351	180,677
Indians	421,503	956,552
Legislation.....	618,035	867,231
Mail and Steamship subsids.....	257,534	413,938
Militia and Defence.....	618,136	1,419,745