

absorb "the surplus of 1910 and of many years to come," suggests that this year's surplus "should not be regarded as an excuse for spending money on frills." It is so obvious that the legitimate development of the Dominion in these coming years will require every available dollar that the point really requires no emphasis. However, the figures as they stand now are of a highly satisfactory character and augur well for the second half of the fiscal year.

The total receipts for the half-year were \$56,148,193 and the expenditure on current account \$35,108,672, leaving a surplus at the half-year of \$21,039,521. For the half year of the last fiscal year, 1909-10 the receipts were \$47,353,819 and the expenditure \$31,563,393, making the half year's surplus at the end of September, 1909, \$15,790,426. There is thus an advance in the surplus at the half-year this year of \$5,249,095. The eventual surplus for the last fiscal year, which closed in March, was just over \$22,000,000; so that, if the present increase be no more than retained this year's surplus will materialize at something over \$27,000,000. Should, however, the surplus continue to advance in this second half-year in the same proportion as in the second half-year of 1909, the end of March next will see a surplus within a reasonable distance of \$30,000,000.

The increase in the total receipts of the half-year upon those of the corresponding period of 1909, represents a percentage advance of 18.6; the increase in the expenditure during the same periods represents an advance in 1910 of only 11.2 p.c. Moreover, the expenditure on capital account credited to the half-year reaches only \$12,430,136 as against \$13,213,063 last year, a decrease of \$782,927 or 5.9 per cent. The public debt has been increased by about \$7,620,000 in the twelve months between the 30th September, 1909, and the 30th September, 1910. This half-year's table of capital expenditure shows some interesting comparisons with that of last year. Expenditure on public works is up from \$10,959,033 to \$11,728,374, but this year so far there has been no capital expenditure on Militia or Dominion Lands which last year between them accounted for nearly

\$600,000. Railway subsidies have been brought down this year in comparison with last year by over \$600,000 and bounties from \$943,482 to \$631,915 or by \$311,567.

Coming now to the receipts as they appear month by month we append a table showing the total revenue and the customs' receipts for the four months of the half-year since June together with a table of ratios of increase. It is not possible to carry this table back over the whole of the six months, since for some reason or other, the May revenue figures were not published in the Canada Gazette.

With regard to the monthly figures, it will be seen that after the excellent figures of June, there was somewhat of a falling off in July, followed by more substantial gains in August and September. The relatively unfavourable character of the July figures in comparison with the figures for the remaining three months is probably to be accounted for partly by the fact that the month contained five Sundays and a Bank Holiday. At the same time it would appear that in any event the month was a relatively unfavourable one since the trade returns to which we referred last week, show for July an increase of only 9.1 per cent. in the volume of Canadian trade in comparison with July of 1909, whereas the aggregate increase in trade to the end of that month was 21.3 per cent. and to the end of August (when the monthly trade increase was 13.1 per cent.) 19.4 per cent. July, as statistics of the bank note circulation show, is normally comparatively an inactive month in the Dominion, and this year the fact was emphasized by there being an unusually small number of working days.

A month ago, in discussing the August return, we pointed out that the gradual decrease in the ratio of increase in the customs' returns during three months suggested that there was a slight but distinct shading off in the Dominion's trade activity in so far as the customs' collections are an index to that activity. The case may be put in a different form thus on the figures which we give this month: Last year between June and September inclusive the total revenue increased by \$874,761, this year

TOTAL REVENUE AND CUSTOMS' REVENUE FOR FOUR MONTHS OF THE FIRST HALF-YEAR OF THE FISCAL YEARS 1909-10 AND 1910-11, WITH RATIOS OF INCREASE.

(Compiled by The Chronicle.)

	MONTHLY REVENUE.						RATIOS OF INCREASE.					
	1909.		1910.		Increase in 1910.		Monthly Figures.		Aggregates.			
	Total Revenue.	Customs Revenue	Total Revenue	Customs Revenue	Total Revenue	Customs Revenue	Total Revenue	Customs Revenue	Total Revenue	Customs Revenue	Total Revenue	Customs Revenue
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	P.C.	P.C.			P.C.	P.C.
June.....	7,978,898	4,810,279	9,612,677	5,180,362	1,633,779	1,370,083	20.4	28.4	To June (3 mos.)....		22.6	31.3
July.....	8,437,438	4,896,422	9,320,586	5,911,403	883,148	1,014,981	10.5	22.9	To July (4 mos.)....		18.7	24.4
August.....	8,469,845	5,365,577	10,174,930	6,560,662	1,705,082	1,195,085	20.1	22.3	To August (5 mos.)..		19.6	27.0
September.....	8,853,659	5,430,087	10,317,823	6,619,006	1,464,164	1,188,919	16.5	21.9	To September (6 mos.)		18.6	26.0