

The Interest

paid on the *Public Debt* last year was \$11,068,139, and in 1895, \$10,466,294, or an increase last year of \$601,845. But it should be carefully noted that, during the same period, the interest we received from investments increased by \$684,907. The Finance Minister, in the House of Commons, on October 21st last, estimated that there would be a reduction in the interest charge, of \$440,990, on the operations of the current fiscal year. He arrived at this amount by calculating upon a decrease of \$177,727, in payments for interest, and an increase of \$263,263, in receipts of interest from investments.

The Agriculture Department

is responsible for an increase of \$488,282, under the heads—Arts, Agriculture, Statistics and Quarantine, but as we shall presently show, the extra amount has been expended for very beneficial purposes. Of the increase stated \$150,000 represents increased expenditure for the promotion of agricultural and dairying interests, including Experimental Farm expense. The amount spent for such purposes in 1903 being \$300,000, as against only \$150,000 in 1895. Under the Conservatives the assistance to these interests consisted chiefly in advances for the purchase of butter for export, and for winter dairying, and in providing for the administrative staff, the members of which went about the country lecturing. The present Minister of Agriculture—practical farmer as he is—has gone farther than his predecessors, and has instituted many new and improved methods to aid the agricultural community. For instance, he established a Live Stock Branch, with a capable Commissioner to promote the Live Stock interests of the country. A poultry division was provided to spread education as to the best methods of fattening and preparing poultry for export. Cold storage of the best kind was established and brought to a high degree of efficiency. A seed division was established and the growth of tobacco was stimulated. Officers were appointed in Montreal and in Great Britain to supervise the lading and unlading of shipments of dairy products and fruit. An agriculturist was appointed at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, who is running a 200 acre farm as a stock farm. In addition to this Chemical Experts and other employees have been added to the staff of the farm to carry on the continually expanding work.