

have saved at least one-half of that sum. For Penitentiaries, we have expended since Confederation, \$5,611,696.54. The Penitentiaries in the United States are supported, not at the charge of the Federal power, but at the charge of the different States. Then, we have expended for the salaries of Governors, \$2,250,643.01. In the country to the south of us the salaries of the Governors are paid by the States and not by the Federal power. If Canada had set out on the same basis as the United States, she would have saved the assumed debts of the Provinces, the subsidies paid to the Provinces, the interest paid on the debt assumed from the Provinces, the amount paid out for Penitentiaries, the amount paid for the salaries of Governors, at least half the amount she has paid for Militia and Defence, at least half the amount paid for the Administration of Justice, and the whole amount paid for Immigration and Quarantine amounting in all to no less a sum than \$309,860,987.40. The net debt of Canada to-day is \$234,531,353; so that, if Canada had set out from the first on the same basis as the United States, and had made no payments that the Federal Government in that country does not make, she not only would have had no debt at present, but would have had a surplus of \$75,329,624.40.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. FOSTER. Hon. gentlemen may treat this as a good joke, but from their point of view it is no joke, for, as soon as this gets before the people and into the minds of the people, a stock argument of the hon. gentlemen opposite will be forever taken from them, which is their comparison on an unfair basis of the debt of the United States with ours, and always to the advantage of the United States and to our disadvantage. But, coming to the question of debt, Canada is not the country most burdened in the world in that respect. The whole of the Provinces

of Australasia show a debt per head of \$218.65; New South Wales, \$199.20; Victoria, \$156.82. Then France has a debt of \$179.66 per head, and Belgium of \$62.15. So that this country, as far as its indebtedness is concerned, has, in the first place, a debt which I believe is not disproportionate to its ability to pay; and in the second place, that it is not in a disadvantageous position when compared with other progressive countries in the world. Sometimes we talk of national debt as if it meant ruin and disaster. I have before me a table showing the net and funded debt of the cities of New York, Brooklyn, Boston, Baltimore and Philadelphia. Those five cities combined have a debt of \$243,252,729, or \$57.48 per head. Leaving the question of the debt for a moment, I come now to the question of taxation and its incidence upon the country. Before taking up that question, however, with the kind indulgence of the House, let me ask their attention to a fact which is patent to all hon. members, but which I repeat in order that we may bear it in mind as this discussion progresses. That is, that it is unfair to take the total revenue of the country as an index of the burden of taxation on the people. The total revenue is made up of the Customs tax and the Excise tax, and what we may call the gross earnings, such as the proceeds of our Post Office, the proceeds of our Railways, the proceeds of our Public Works, the tolls and fares, and fees, that are paid upon them for services which they render to the country. There are also public funds which are invested in different ways, which earn and yield so much to the revenue of the country, so that, in every case, we have first to take away the earnings from the total revenue in order to get at what is really to be denominated the taxation of the country—that is the Customs and Excise duties. I hold in my hands a tabulated statement as follows, showing:—

EARNINGS AND TAXATION by Customs and Excise Duties, and proportion to population, 1868-1888.

Year.	Earnings.	Amount per Head.	Customs.	Amount per Head.	Excise.	Amount per Head.	TAXATION.		Percentage of Total Revenue.
							Gross Amount.	Average per Head.	
	\$ cts	\$ cts.	\$	\$ cts	\$	\$ cts.	\$	\$ cts.	
1868.....	1,987,247 41	0 59	8,578,380	2 54	3,002,588	0 89	11,700,681	3 47	85.48
1869.....	3,286,601 51	0 96	8,272,879	2 42	2,710,028	0 79	11,112,573	3 26	77.28
1870.....	2,424,342 98	0 70	8,334,212	2 70	3,619,822	0 05	13,087,882	3 79	84.37
1871.....	3,015,192 11	0 86	11,841,104	3 56	4,295,944	1 22	16,320,368	4 64	84.41
1872.....	2,909,261 64	0 83	12,787,982	3 54	4,735,651	1 31	17,715,552	4 91	85.52
1873.....	3,196,914 67	0 87	12,954,164	3 53	4,460,681	1 22	17,616,554	4 80	84.64
1874.....	4,075,907 37	1 07	14,325,192	3 74	5,594,903	1 46	20,129,185	5 26	83.16
1875.....	3,983,836 08	1 03	15,351,011	3 95	5,069,657	1 30	20,664,878	5 32	83.84
1876.....	3,973,172 03	1 01	12,823,937	3 26	5,563,487	1 41	18,614,415	4 71	82.41
1877.....	4,361,349 29	1 09	12,546,987	3 14	4,941,987	1 23	17,697,924	4 41	80.23
1878.....	4,533,073 69	1 11	12,782,824	3 13	4,858,671	1 19	17,841,933	4 37	79.74
1879.....	4,040,768 79	0 97	12,900,659	3 11	5,390,763	1 30	18,476,613	4 46	81.05
1880.....	4,877,830 25	1 15	14,071,343	3 34	4,232,427	1 00	18,479,576	4 38	79.29
1881.....	5,693,158 59	1 31	18,406,992	4 23	5,343,022	1 23	23,942,138	5 51	80.19
1882.....	5,834,409 07	1 32	21,581,570	4 87	5,884,859	1 33	27,549,046	6 22	82.52
1883.....	6,524,950 99	1 44	23,009,582	5 09	6,260,116	1 39	29,269,698	6 48	81.77
1884.....	6,378,762 54	1 38	20,023,890	4 43	5,459,309	1 18	25,483,199	5 53	79.98
1885.....	7,412,471 90	1 58	18,935,428	4 03	6,449,101	1 37	25,384,529	5 40	77.99
1886.....	7,950,584 18	1 66	19,373,551	4 04	5,852,904	1 23	25,226,456	5 23	76.03
1887.....	7,067,991 32	1 45	22,378,801	4 59	6,308,201	1 29	28,687,002	5 89	80.23
1888.....	7,731,050 35	1 55	22,105,926	4 44	6,071,487	1 21	28,177,413	5 66	78.47

From this table it will be seen that in 1868, the earnings of the country amounted to \$1,987,247.41, which was equal to 59 cents per head of the population. In 1888, the earnings amounted to \$7,731,050.35, or \$1.55 per head of the population. That is a gratifying increase in the earnings, which do not mean taxation, from Confederation up to the present time. The Customs receipts in 1868 were \$8,578,380, or

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\$2.54 per head. The yield from that source in 1888, was \$22,105,926, or \$4.44 per head. The Excise revenue in 1868, was \$3,002,588, or 89 cents per head, while the yield from Excise in 1888 was \$6,071,487, or \$1.21 per head. The gross amount of taxation in 1868 was \$11,700,681, an average of \$3.47 per head, and in 1888, it was \$28,177,413, or an average of \$5.66 per head. That is a fair, plain