

426,281 in 1889. The fixed charges, being those for debt, sinking fund and provincial subsidies, amounted in 1868 to 58 per cent. of the revenue, but in 1889 to only 42 per cent.

The net debt per head in 1889 was \$46.79, a decrease of 38 cents per head since the previous year, and the net interest paid per head was \$1.74, a reduction of five cents over 1888. The net debt per head in 1868 was \$22.47, and the net interest paid \$1.29. It will be observed that while the amount per head of the net debt has increased over 100 per cent. since Confederation, the net interest paid has increased only 35 per cent. The most favorable Canadian loan negotiated was that of 1888, at a rate of interest equivalent to \$3.27 per cent., and the most expensive loan was that of 1874, costing equivalent to \$4.87 per cent.

The following statement shows the net indebtedness of Canada per head in comparison with other countries.

Country.	Per Head.	Multiple of Revenue.	Country.	Per Head.	Multiple of Revenue.
Canada	46.79	6.18	West'n Australia	147.28	3.57
United Kingdom	89.39	7.89	Queensland	374.57	8.13
Cape of Good Hope	75.94	6.51	Tasmania	146.22	6.86
New South Wales	197.67	4.98	New Zealand...	296.30	9.00
Victoria	154.48	4.55	France	150.32	9.94
South Australia.	292.75	7.68	United States...	26.06	4.38
			Peru	96.00	41.27

The total public debts of Great Britain and her possessions amount to \$5,546,405,200, of which Great Britain owes 61 per cent., India 17 per cent., the Australasian Colonies 15 per cent., and Canada 4 per cent. In 1868 five and a half years' revenue would have sufficed to pay off Canada's net debt; it would now require a little over six years' revenue. The net debts of the various provinces aggregate about \$16,000,000. Add this amount to the Dominion debt and the average indebtedness per head is raised to \$49.94. No figures are available for determining either the county, municipal or civic debts of Canada.

The proportions of debt to population in the Australasian colonies, and also in Cape Colony, are very large; but while, as in Canada, the whole amounts have been incurred in the construction of public works, by far the largest portion has been expended on railways which, in those colonies, are almost altogether the property of the State. There is consequently a very much larger revenue than in Canada, where the money has been spent on works directly productive to the country, but only indirectly so to the State revenue. In proportion, moreover, to the wealth and general trade of the Australasian Colonies, their populations are very scanty.

The most accurate mode of judging the financial position of a State is to measure its obligations by its wealth; but this is a difficult thing to do, and, naturally, a large expenditure precedes the development of a country's resources. Mr. Mulhall calculates that the debt of the United Kingdom is 8 per cent., of the Australasian Colonies 20 per cent., and of Canada $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the national wealth of each country respectively.

The total amount paid in 1889 on account of pensions, superannuation allowances and gratuities was \$334,963. In

the same year the pension list of the United States was \$87,624,779.

There were 39 incorporated banks made returns to the Government for the year ended 30th June, 1890. The following table gives particulars of their operations in 1868, 1879, 1889 and 1890:—

Years.	Paid-up Capital.	Circulation.	Deposits.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Percentage of Liabilities to Assets.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
1868	30,289,048	8,307,079	32,868,103	43,722,647	77,872,257	56.15
1879	64,159,427	18,090,814	71,368,502	93,375,749	170,446,074	54.78
1889	60,236,451	31,209,972	136,293,978	175,662,257	255,705,631	68.44
1890	59,569,765	32,059,176	136,433,800	174,301,427	254,608,694	68.53

There were 27 incorporated banks made returns to the Government for the year 1868, 12 less than in 1890. The following are the proportions of increase of 1890 over 1868:—

Amount of paid up Capital	96 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.
" Circulation	286 "
" Deposits	322 "
" Liabilities	299 "
" Assets	227 "

Compared with 1889 the figures for 1890 shew an increase in deposits of \$2,139,822; in discounts of \$3,283,376; in circulation of \$849,206.

The total amount of reserve held by the banks on 30th June, 1890, was \$21,094,035. The Montreal Clearing House, established in 1889, shewed operations for that year of \$454,560,667, placing Montreal eleventh in the scale of North American cities having clearing houses.

There were 1668 failures in 1888 and 1747 in 1889, representing liabilities of \$13,974,787 and \$14,528,884 respectively. This increase lay almost entirely in the Province of Quebec, and is attributable to a succession of bad harvests with low prices, rendering the farmers unable to meet their obligations and causing the collapse of small traders.

The Post Office Savings Bank system was inaugurated in 1868. On 1st July, 1868, there were 81 offices, and the total amount on deposit was \$204,589. On 1st July, 1889, there were 463 offices, and the total amount on deposit was \$23,011,422. Almost the whole of this enormous increase has taken place during the last ten years, the amount on deposit 1st July, 1879, having been only \$3,105,190. The amount on deposit in the Government Savings Banks on 1st July, 1889, was \$19,944,935. The business of these latter institutions is being transferred, as fast as practicable, to the Post Office Savings Banks: consequently their balances will gradually become smaller.

The following statement shows the development of these institutions since Confederation:—

Year.	Total Deposits P. O. Savings Banks.	Total Deposits Govt. Savings Banks.	Grand Total.
1868	204,589	1,483,219	1,687,808
1874	3,804,965	4,005,395	7,810,360
1879	3,105,190	6,102,492	9,207,682
1889	23,011,422	19,944,935	42,956,357
1890	21,990,653	19,021,812	41,012,465