

that the Departmental finances for the year ending June 1903, showed a surplus of \$292,702 over all expenses.

The following table, showing increase of work and business since the Liberals came into power, illustrates the necessity for the increased expenditure:

	1896	1903
Post Offices.....	9,103	10,150
Number of miles mails carried.....	30,551,683	35,509,412
Number of letters carried.....	116,028,000	234,991,000
Total amount of money transmitted by Money Orders and Postal Notes.....	\$13,081,860	\$28,904,096

Customs Department.

Next look at the Customs Department:

Expenditure, 1903.....	\$1,229,028
“ 1895.....	917,632

Increase, 1903 \$ 311,396

This is an increase of 34 %, but for the corresponding period the Customs returns increased by 108 %.

Gross revenue, 1903.....	\$37,110,354
“ 1895.....	17,887,269

Increase, 1903..... \$19,223,085

The only fair way to test the financial administration of this Department is by a comparison of the percentage cost of collection. In 1895 it cost \$5.13 to collect every \$100 of customs duties, whereas last year it only cost \$3.31 per \$100.

The Department has to-day twice the work to perform that was done in 1895, and it will be apparent, therefore, that increased expenditure was necessary. There are about 250 more officers on the staff as compared with 1895, and the expenses for cartage of goods, stationery and books, and general contingencies have increased with the growth of importations. Many new offices had to be opened in the newer parts of the Dominion, new services such as the establishment of a Statistical Branch for the publication of monthly trade reports, and the uniforming of Customs Officers account for a considerable portion of the increase.