

year has been such that no statistics have been needed to prove its progress. The activity that has prevailed in all parts of the Dominion, the large enterprises that have been undertaken, the continued demand for labour—all these prove beyond question that Canada has recently been developing rapidly and give us every reason to believe that when the next census is taken the result will be satisfactory.

From the financial point of view, Mr. Speaker, the results of the year were exceedingly satisfactory. We had a revenue of \$52,514,701.13, a little less than my anticipations, but considerably greater than the revenue of the previous year. It will be interesting to know that this increase in revenue comes to us from all the different classes into which we divide our receipts, as appears by the following statement:

DETAILS OF REVENUE, 1900-1901 compared with previous year.

	Fiscal Year 1899-1900.	Fiscal Year 1900-1901	Increase.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Customs...	28,374,147 64	28,125,284 25	51,136 61
Excise...	9,868,975 35	10,318,266 03	450,190 68
Post Office...	3,205,535 16	3,441,594 93	235,969 77
Railways...	4,774,162 02	5,213,381 24	439,219 22
Dominion			
Lands...	1,388,623 78	1,517,319 52	129,295 74
Miscellaneous	3,429,070 07	3,598,945 16	178,895 09
	51,029,394 02	52,514,701 13	1,484,707 11

*This includes 'railways only'—canals revenue is included in 'Miscellaneous.'

These increases are all interesting, but some of them are worthy of special note. The excise duties are always interesting, not only because of the amount of duty involved in them, but because they show the consumption of certain articles which enlist

a good deal of attention in the country. Whether or not it will be gratifying to make the statement, the fact must be stated that there has been an increase during the year in the receipts in all branches of the excise duties, as appears from this table:

EXCISE DUTIES, 1900-1901.

		QUANTITY.		DUTY.		INCREASE.
		1899-1900.	1900-1901.	1899-1900.	1900-1901.	
				\$	\$	\$
Spirits.....	Galls.	2,659,038	2,863,950	4,818,842	5,178,275	359,433
Malt.....	Lbs.	60,284,064	64,723,616	904,262	970,855	66,593
Cigars.....	No.	138,041,707	141,696,889	811,612	822,738	11,126
Cigarettes.....	"	116,061,522	121,383,584	347,252	362,626	15,374
Tobacco and snuff.....	Lbs.	10,816,854	11,330,345	2,306,861	2,308,460	1,599
Raw leaf, foreign.....	"	9,352,535	9,848,803	971,977	1,026,265	54,288

I give these figures because, as I have stated, the growth of trade in these articles is always a matter of interest, whether or not it meets with general approval. There are one or two other items in the revenue which are worthy of special note. I think my hon. friend the Postmaster General has reason to congratulate himself on the state of the post office revenue. There was an increase of \$235,969.77 in the revenue of that department. The post office receipts as shown in the books of the Finance Department amounted to \$3,441,504.93. The expenditure, by the same account, was \$3,939,446.01, showing a deficit of \$489,941.08, according to the books of the Finance Department. My hon. friend the Postmaster General has in his own report drawn attention to the different services performed as compared with the services of former

years, and in that light has made out a more favourable statement. But I give the figures as they appear in the books of the Finance Department, and they represent a deficit for the year of \$489,941.08. It is of course quite a large sum; but when we remember that only a few years ago the deficits of the Post Office Department were \$700,000 and \$800,000 per annum, if there was nothing else to explain the matter, this reduction down to \$489,000 would be a remarkable reduction on which my hon. friend the Postmaster General might well congratulate himself. But when we are able to go further and show that in the meantime my hon. friend has more than cut the English postage in two, and that he has reduced the Canadian postage one-third, that he has practically cut off what somebody else has described as a mill