

174. From the above it will be seen that the average rate of actual interest paid has decreased from \$4.51 per cent. in 1837 to \$2.80 per cent. in 1885, a difference of \$1.71 per cent. The rate of interest on assets has increased in even larger proportion. In 1868 it was \$0.59 per cent., and in 1885 \$3.92 per cent., being an annual gain of \$3.33 on every \$100 invested. In 1884 a loan for £5,000,000 sterling was negotiated in the London market at 3½ per cent., being the first loan ever obtained by any colony at so low a rate.

175. The net amount of interest paid per head of estimated population was in 1868 \$1.29, in 1877 \$1.51 and in 1885 \$1.59. The net charges for interest and management of debt per head of the population were in 1868 \$1.38, and in 1885 \$1.63. So that while the debt itself has increased 159.35 per cent., the interest and cost of management has only increased 64.24 per cent.

176. The charges for interest and management of debt in the United Kingdom in 1884 were \$3.85 per head, and in Australasia \$8.46 per head. The fixed charges in the Dominion, *i.e.*, the charges for debt, sinking fund and subsidies to Provinces, in 1867 absorbed 58 per cent. of the revenue; in 1885, this proportion had been reduced to 46 per cent.

177. The following table gives the amount of public debt in the United Kingdom and in some of her principal possessions, also the proportion of debt per head of the population of each, and the number of years' revenue of each possession required to make up an amount equivalent to its debt. The public debt of Canada is inserted in the table, in order to make comparison more easy.

PUBLIC DEBTS in British Possessions.

Country.	Public Debt.			
	Year.	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.	Multiple of Revenue
		\$	\$ cts.	
Europe..... United Kingdom.....	1885	3,602,942,516	98 98	8.41
Asia India.....	1884	784,994,408	3 94	2.24
Africa Natal	1884	15,648,499	36 86	5.26
do Cape of Good Hope.	1884	101,246,775	90 24	7.05
America..... Canada	1885	196,407,692	41 83	5.98
Australasia..... Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand..	1884	614,906,048	190 18	5.67

178. It will be seen that the amount of indebtedness per head in Canada is, with the exception of India and Natal, less than in any of the countries named; the indebtedness per head in the United Kingdom is more than double that of Canada,