

Duty on
bill
stamps.

203. The duties on bill stamps, &c., were all repealed in 1882, the amount received in that year up to the date of repeal having been \$82,616, and the total amount received since Confederation, \$2,686,850. The receipts from tobacco were higher than in any year since 1876, owing, however, more to increased duty than to increased consumption, and the decrease in duties on cigars was owing to a larger consumption of domestic manufactures. The receipts from sugar duties were \$863,703 more than in 1886, and were larger than in any other year in the table. The duties on tea and coffee were taken off in 1882, causing a large reduction of revenue.

Receipts
from to-
bacco and
sugar
duties.

Consump-
tion of tea
and sugar.

204. The consumption of tea and sugar per inhabitant has been generally considered one of the best standards by which to judge the condition of the people, it having been found that the consumption of these two articles indicates more clearly than almost anything else their well-being, or otherwise; and judging the condition of the inhabitants of Canada by this test, it will be found that there has been a steady and satisfactory improvement. In 1868 the consumption of sugar was 15 lbs. per head, in 1877 it was 23 lbs. per head, and in 1887 it was no less than 41 lbs., an increase of 13 lbs. per head in the last ten years, and nearly double the quantity consumed in 1877. As far as information is available it would appear that the *per capita* consumption of sugar in Canada is larger than that of almost any other country, with the exception of the United Kingdom and the United States, a fact that speaks well for the condition of the working classes in this country. In the United Kingdom the amount was 66½ lbs. per head, a decrease of 4 lbs. as compared with 1885; in the United States it was about 44 lbs., not very much more than in this country. The consumption of tea has also very largely increased, in 1868 it was 2 lbs. per head, in 1877