

and that it relatively costs more to collect a small Customs revenue than a large one. Considering the large area of the Dominion, and the length of its frontiers, together with the large number of ports of entry it is necessary to keep up, the cost of collection must be considered as being moderate. In the United Kingdom in 1888 it was 4.76 per cent.

143. There being no system of direct taxation in this country, and the use of articles on which Excise duties are collected being to a very large extent optional, it follows that the Customs duties alone form that part of the general taxation of which everyone must pay a share, and it will therefore be satisfactory to notice from the foregoing table that the proportion of increase in receipts from Customs duties has been far larger than that of population, showing that the ability to purchase has increased in much greater ratio than the burden of taxation, the increase in the receipts from Customs being 157 per cent. since 1868, and in the amount per head 75 per cent. Indirect taxation.

144 In the United Kingdom in 1888 the proportion per head was \$2.55, in the United States in the same year it was \$3.65, in both cases being a smaller proportion than in this country, while in some of the Australian colonies it was very much higher; for instance, in New South Wales it was \$10.04, in New Zealand \$10.86, and in Queensland \$15.27 per head. These latter figures are for 1887. Customs duties per head in some foreign countries.

145. The following are statements for the last twenty-one years of the amounts received from the principal heads under which taxation has been levied by means of Customs and Excise duties. As the tariff has undergone many changes during the period, notably in 1879, no comparisons can be strictly made from year to year, and the figures must always be considered with reference to the tariff in force at the time :— Heads of taxation, 1868-1888.