

Surplus
and deficit
of revenue.

146. In fifteen years out of the twenty-three that have elapsed since Confederation there has been a surplus of revenue, and in the remaining eight an excess of expenditure. The total amount of surplus during the period has been \$36,126,792, and of deficit \$16,854,849, being a net excess of revenue over expenditure of \$19,271,943. The revenue in 1890 was the largest ever collected, and was \$26,191,997 in excess of that of 1868, the first year after Confederation, being an increase of 191 per cent. After deducting the war expenditure from the expenditure of 1886 (in that year it was charged to Consolidated Fund and subsequently to capital account) it will be seen that the ordinary expenditure has been exceeded in two years since Confederation, viz., in 1888 and 1889, and that the expenditure of 1890 exceeded that of 1868 by \$22,507,938, being an increase of 167 per cent. The revenue, therefore, as the figures at present stand, has increased in a larger proportion than the expenditure, a fact which, in view of the difficulties and expenses attending the opening up of new country and of the large extent of territory brought under control since Confederation, must be considered as very encouraging.

Increase of
revenue
and expen-
diture.

Heads of
revenue
1889 and
1890.

147. The following is a detailed comparative statement of the various receipts on account of the Consolidated Fund from all sources in the years 1889 and 1890, showing the increase and decrease in each item :—

HEADS OF REVENUE—CONSOLIDATED FUND—1889 AND 1890.

HEADS OF REVENUE.	Amounts Received.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1888-89.	1889-90.		
TAXATION.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Customs	23,726,784	23,968,954	242,170
Excise	6,886,739	7,618,118	731,379
Total	30,613,523	31,587,072	973,549