

the revenue of 1891 than it did that of 1868, though the former was nearly three times as much, showing 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 1890 it was 4.60 per cent, and in the United States 3.04 per cent.

Increase per head in Customs receipts greater than in those from taxation.

188. 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 every one must pay a share, and it will therefore be noticed 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 173 per cent since 1868, and in the amount per head 90 per cent.

Customs duties per head in various countries.

189. In the United Kingdom in 1890 the proportion per head was \$2.56; in the United States in the same year it was \$3.67, in both cases being a smaller proportion than in this country, while in the Australasian colonies it is very much higher, as shown by the following figures for 1888:—

Western Australia.....	8 18 37
Queensland .. .. .	16 88
New Zealand.....	11 14
Victoria.....	10 50
Tasmania.....	9 92
New South Wales.....	8 59
South Australia.. . . .	8 30

Heads of taxation, 1868-1891.

190. The following are statements for the last twenty-four 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:—