

Cost of
Parliament build-
ings,
Ottawa.

251. The Parliament buildings at Ottawa, which are acknowledged to be among the finest on the continent of America, have been erected at a total cost, up to the 30th June, 1892, including the new departmental building on Wellington street, of \$4,979,242. The sum of \$262,168 has also been expended on the construction of a building near Nepean Point for the Government Printing Bureau.

Details of
assets.

252. In 1868 the assets amounted to \$17,317,410, and in 1892 to \$54,201,840, showing an increase of \$36,884,430. The assets only include interest-bearing investments, loans, cash and banking accounts, no account being taken of the unsold lands belonging to the Government, nor of the railways, canals, public buildings and other public works, which it either owns or has assisted in constructing, and which are the material results of the large expenditure of public money. The following are details of the assets on 30th June, 1892 :—

Sinking funds.....	\$ 28,583,475
Quebec Harbour debentures.....	3,664,717
Montreal Harbour bonds.....	385,000
Northern Railway bonds.....	73,000
St. John River and Railway Extension Company.....	433,900
Canadian Pacific Railway land grant bonds.....	29,000
Province accounts.....	10,412,178
Sundry investments.....	594,160
Total interest-bearing investments	\$ 44,175,430
Miscellaneous accounts.....	2,132,940
Cash.....	2,822,968
Specie reserve.....	5,061,577
Silver coinage accounts.....	8,925
Total assets.....	\$ 54,201,840

Interest-
bearing
assets.

253. In 1868 the interest-bearing assets amounted to the sum of \$15,853,720, or about 91 per cent of the whole amount ; in 1892 they were (less Province accounts) \$33,763,252, or about 62 per cent of the whole.

Average
interest
on debt
and assets.

254. The reduction in high interest-bearing debts, and consequently the decrease in the rate of interest now payable, has been very considerable, as shown by the following table, in which the amounts given are those of the actual interest paid and received, and of the actual net interest ; and the average rate of net interest is the average rate of the interest actually paid on the gross debt, after deducting that received on assets :—