

and since that date additional provincial debts have been assumed or allowed by the Dominion to the extent of \$30,743,392, making a total assumption of provincial debts of \$109,430,148, leaving, therefore, the sum of \$132,250,891 as the actual net liability created by the Dominion Government since Confederation. It must be remembered that the allowance of these debts to the provinces was in accordance with arrangements made at that time, and that though the amount of the public debt has been thereby increased, no new liabilities have been actually created, inasmuch as these debts, if not taken over by the Dominion, would still be owing by the provinces, and this assumption of provincial debts has been, therefore, a simple transfer of liability, and the burden on the people has not been increased, but has been made actually lighter, since the Government were enabled to change the high interest-bearing bonds of the provinces for their own bonds at a lower rate.

1247. The following are particulars of the provincial debts assumed by the Dominion at Confederation :—

Canada.....	\$ 62,500,000
Nova Scotia.....	8,000,000
New Brunswick.....	7,000,000
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	\$ 77,500,000

Debts subsequently assumed or allowed :

Nova Scotia (1869).....	1,186,756
The old Province of Canada (1873).....	10,506,089
Province of Ontario.....	2,848,289
“ Quebec.....	2,549,214
“ Nova Scotia.....	2,343,059
“ New Brunswick.....	1,807,720
“ Manitoba.....	3,775,606
“ British Columbia.....	2,029,392
“ Prince Edward Island.....	4,884,023

Total provincial debts assumed.....	<hr/> <hr/> \$ 109,430,148
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1248. On the Canadian Pacific Railway has been expended \$62,457,996, on the Intercolonial and connecting railways, \$44,527,216, and on canals \$38,681,874, making a total of \$145,667,086. Not only, therefore, is the whole debt thus accounted for, but it will be seen that under the three above heads alone there has been spent the sum of \$13,416,195 more than the total actual increase of the debt since Confederation.

\*Including the sum of \$2,725,504 expended in previous years by the Montreal Harbour Commission on the improvement of the St. Lawrence, and assumed in 1890 by the Dominion Government.