

1281. The following is the statement forwarded to this office in response to a request for the statement of the debt and assets of the Province of Ontario :—

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO—STATEMENT OF DEBTS AND ASSETS.

YEAR ENDED 31ST DEC.	Railway Liabilities payable in the Future, extending over 40 Years.	Surplus of Assets over Liabilities presently pay- able.
	\$	\$
1882.....	2,903,507	4,825,586
1883.....	2,952,527	4,384,241
1884.....	2,798,692	6,859,666
1885.....	2,566,075	6,766,090
1886.....	2,318,093	6,680,339
1887.....	2,070,111	6,665,352
1888.....	1,822,129	6,734,649
1889.....	1,574,147	6,427,252
1890.....	1,382,133	5,809,995
1891.....	1,241,889	5,285,515
1892.....	1,379,111	5,838,758
1893.....	1,401,598	6,135,480

1282. The following statements relate to cities and towns of the Dominion and are the result of a special inquiry made by the Statistical Branch.

This inquiry is part of a general investigation into the municipal indebtedness of the several provinces of the Dominion, instituted during the year by the Statistical Branch of the Department of Agriculture, but by no means completed. The Provincial Governments of Ontario and Quebec publish returns from time to time. But examination showed that these are imperfect, especially the returns made public respecting the province of Quebec. Special inquiries regarding the other provinces were made and considerable information collected, which, when thoroughly sifted, will enable us to give a full statement of the municipal indebtedness of the counties, parishes, and other municipalities of the Dominion. An estimate of this indebtedness, based upon the information obtained, gives the total municipal debt of Canada in the neighbourhood of 100 million dollars.

In the province of Ontario complete returns from 43 cities, towns and incorporated villages give a population of over 470,000, with liabilities of \$38,500,000.

The returns recently published by the Ontario Government give the total liabilities of all the municipalities of the province, including counties, townships, cities, towns and villages, for the year 1890, at \$49,108,171. The assets, including taxes in arrears, rates due from other municipalities, &c., are given at \$52,888,939.