

1446. 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 \$100,000,000.

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.