

10.—Expenditure and Revenue of the Public Works Department for the fiscal years
1918-1923—concluded.

REVENUE.

Items.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Slides and booms.....	26,188	15,763	48,133	1	1	1
Graving docks.....	56,484	72,428	81,148	64,918	112,194	105,337
Rents.....	106,205	101,664	143,355	128,148	111,111	139,118
Telegraph lines.....	204,878	231,332	277,749	330,470	290,131	286,037
Casual revenue.....	27,737	108,295	81,073	199,583	180,691	251,696
Ferries.....	-	-	1,632	2,010	2,093	2,343
Total.....	421,492	530,482	633,090	725,129	696,220	784,531

¹In the fiscal year 1920-21, the slide and boom works were leased or transferred to operating companies.

IV.—THE INDIANS OF CANADA.¹

The Indians of Canada number about 109,000, their numbers varying but slightly from year to year. A small yearly increase is evident, however, and the popular notion that the race is disappearing is not in accordance with facts. Before they were subjected to the degenerating effects of European civilization and the devastating results of the many colonial wars, the numbers of both the Indians and Eskimos were undoubtedly larger, but any reliable information as to the aboriginal population during either the French or the early British *régime* is non-existent, and there is no adequate basis for a comparison between the past and present aboriginal populations.

Administration.—Indians are minors under the law, and their affairs are administered by the Department of Indian Affairs under the authority of the Indian Act. This Department is the oldest governmental organization in the Dominion, dating back to the time of the conquest. It was originally under the military authorities, and did not become a part of the civil administrative machinery until 1845. By section 5 of the British North America Act, 1867, the Indians of Canada and the lands reserved for them came under the control of the Dominion Government, and in 1873 an Act of the Canadian Parliament (R.S., c. 81) provided that the Minister of the Interior should be Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs, and as such have the control and management of the lands and property of the Indians in Canada. The aim of the Department of Indian Affairs is the advancement of the Indians in the arts of civilization, and agents have been appointed to encourage the Indians under their charge to settle on the reserves and to engage in industrial pursuits.

The system of reserves, whereby particular areas of land have been set apart solely for the use of Indians, has been established in Canada from the earliest times. It was designed in order to protect the Indians from encroachment, and to provide a sort of sanctuary where they could develop unmolested until advancing civilization had made possible their absorption into the general body of the citizens.

¹ The letter-press under this heading is taken in the main from the article contributed by the Department of Indian Affairs to the 1921 edition. Paragraphs on the linguistic stock and tribal origin of the Indian population, their industries and occupations, their health, sanitation and dwellings, appearing on pages 786-789 of the 1921 edition, are not reprinted.