

12.—Expenditure and Revenue of the Public Works Department for the fiscal years ended 1922-1927.

EXPENDITURE (exclusive of Civil Government Appropriations).

Items.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Harbour and river works.....	6,142,157	5,042,747	5,772,800	6,529,466	6,296,293	3,635,914
Dredging plant, etc.....	1,211,582	1,380,902	2,004,433	2,043,635	2,350,225	1,918,798
Roads and bridges.....	596,193	84,367	43,231	59,937	304,074	9,717
Public buildings.....	7,401,222	6,221,186	7,223,545	8,507,795	7,778,324	6,984,720
Telegraphs.....	1,024,116	959,889	940,677	905,519	856,144	802,495
Miscellaneous.....	765,697	593,988	606,407	593,482	245,061	199,309
Total.....	17,146,967	14,283,679	16,591,699	18,639,894	17,836,121	13,750,953
From War Appropriation for Military Hospitals.....	798,527	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Total.....	17,939,494	14,283,679	16,591,699	18,639,894	17,836,121	13,750,953

REVENUE.

Items.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Graving docks.....	112,194	105,337	117,562	92,831	85,382	120,402
Rents.....	111,111	139,118	102,808	122,588	130,594	96,315
Telegraph lines.....	290,131	286,087	284,328	294,735	294,181	309,488
Casual revenue.....	180,691	251,696	174,100	80,895	154,535	108,605
Ferries.....	2,093	2,343	709	1,860	4,543	1,048
Total.....	696,220	784,581	679,599	592,969	669,235	635,858

IV.—THE INDIANS OF CANADA.¹

The Indians of Canada number about 105,000, 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. An interesting sketch of the progress of the Indians of Canada since Confederation will be found in the Report of the Department of Indian Affairs, 1927.

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

¹The 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 pp. 786-789 of the 1921 edition, are not reprinted.