

Expenditure and Revenue.—Table 12 shows the expenditure and revenue of the Public Works Department of the Dominion Government for the fiscal years 1923-28. For the fiscal year 1928 the expenditure was \$16,596,414, as compared with \$13,750,953 in 1927, an increase of \$2,845,461, largely accounted for by appropriations for harbours and rivers, dredging and public buildings.

12.—Expenditure and Revenue of the Public Works Department for the fiscal years ended 1923-1928.

EXPENDITURE (exclusive of Civil Government Appropriations).

Items.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Harbour and river works.....	5,042,747	5,772,800	6,529,466	6,296,283	3,835,914	4,198,905
Dredging plant, etc.....	1,380,902	2,004,483	2,013,635	2,350,225	1,918,798	2,879,559
Roads and bridges.....	84,367	43,234	59,997	304,074	9,717	38,629
Airports.....	—	—	—	—	—	84,251
Public buildings.....	6,221,186	7,223,545	8,507,795	7,778,324	6,984,720	8,252,449
Telegraphs.....	959,889	940,677	905,519	856,144	802,485	840,451
Miscellaneous.....	593,988	605,407	593,482	245,061	199,309	302,170
Total.....	14,283,079	16,591,699	18,639,894	17,830,121	13,750,953	16,596,414

REVENUE.

Items.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Graving docks.....	105,337	117,552	92,831	85,382	120,402	87,322
Rents.....	139,118	102,808	122,588	130,591	96,315	101,571
Telegraphs.....	286,037	281,328	294,735	294,181	309,488	298,663
Casual revenue.....	251,696	174,100	80,895	154,535	108,605	98,435
Ferries.....	2,343	709	1,860	4,543	1,048	1,361
Total.....	784,531	679,599	592,909	669,235	635,858	587,352

Section 4.—The Indians of Canada.¹

The Indians of Canada who are wards of the Department of Indian Affairs 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

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.