

12.—Expenditure and Revenue of the Public Works Department for the fiscal years ended Mar. 31, 1924-1929—concluded.

REVENUE.

Items.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Graving docks.....	117,562	92,831	85,382	120,402	87,322	102,065
Rents.....	102,808	122,588	130,594	96,315	101,571	97,114
Telegraphs.....	284,328	294,735	294,181	309,488	298,663	356,485
Casual revenue.....	174,100	80,895	154,535	108,605	98,435	83,311
Ferries.....	709	1,860	4,543	1,048	1,361	1,358
Total.....	679,509	592,909	669,235	635,858	587,352	640,333

Section 4.—The Indians of Canada.¹

The Indians of Canada who are wards of the Department of Indian Affairs number about 108,012, their numbers varying 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 the Indians 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., 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.

Reserves have been set aside for the various bands of Indians throughout the Dominion, and the Indians located thereon are under the supervision of the local agents of the Department. The activities of the Department, as guardian of the

¹The letterpress 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.