

share, where shares are sold at 50 cents each or less, to four cents, where they are sold at over \$100 each. A number of changes were made in the Customs Tariff by c. 39 of the 1929 Statutes.

In 1930, the general rate of the sales tax was reduced from 2 to 1 p.c. *Bona fide* co-operative organizations, government or like annuities (to the extent of \$5,000), and donations to churches, schools and hospitals (to a maximum of 10 p.c. of the net income of the taxpayer) were exempted from income tax, and the \$500 exemption for children was extended to cover certain dependent relatives suffering from mental or physical infirmity. In the customs tariff, the iron and steel schedules were completely revised, seasonal tariffs were adopted in respect of fruits and vegetables, duties were reduced on tea, porcelain and chinaware and meats and increased on beans and butter, and so-called countervailing duties were imposed in respect of 16 commodities. The year was unusual in that it saw a second tariff revision, namely, that of the special session of September, when the anti-dumping clauses of the tariff were re-written and very many changes were made in rates of duty in the schedules. Increases were made *inter alia* on most agricultural products, on printed matter and manufactures of paper, on numerous commodities in the iron and steel group, on a wide range of textile items and on boots and shoes. Power was granted to the Governor in Council to prohibit the importation into Canada of goods exported to the Dominion from any country not a contracting party to the Treaty of Versailles.

In 1931, the general rate of the sales tax was increased from 1 to 4 p.c. Tax exemption for cheques, receipts for money paid by banks, money orders, travellers' cheques and Post Office money orders was reduced from over \$10 to over \$5 and postage stamps could be used on these documents in lieu of Excise Tax stamps. A special excise tax of 1 p.c. was imposed on importations. As regards the customs tariff, the 1931 session saw several further amendments of the administrative clauses of the tariff, the powers of the Governor in Council in the matter of the making of tariffs being widened to include the granting and withdrawing of rates more favourable than those of the British preferential tariff. Provision was made for penalty in the case of any person guilty of using the tariff to increase prices to consumers. Rates were altered on many items, the countervailing duties having been rescinded in entirety at the special session in September, 1930. Increases were made on fresh and canned meats, tea, field and garden seeds, prepared foods, containers, wallboards, spray mixtures, building stone and granite, steel plate, motor vehicles, wood veneers, various textiles, coal and coke, leather and leather goods, and numerous other commodities. The importation of second-hand motor vehicles, except under specified exceptional circumstances, was prohibited.

#### Subsection 1.—The Current Balance Sheet of the Dominion.

A summary review of the current financial situation of the Dominion as at Mar. 31, 1931, is given in the balance sheet shown in Table 1. This shows the gross debt on the above date to have been \$2,610,265,698, partly offset by available assets aggregating \$348,653,762, leaving a net debt of \$2,261,611,936.<sup>1</sup> Non-available assets, including such public works as canals and railways, also loans to railways, amounted in the aggregate to \$1,689,111,166, leaving a debit balance on Consolidated Fund Account on Mar. 31, 1931, of \$572,500,770. The details of the various assets and liabilities are contained in the schedules accompanying the balance sheet and printed in the Public Accounts.

<sup>1</sup> The net debt on Mar. 31, 1924, was \$2,417,793,275; on Mar. 31, 1925, \$2,417,437,686; on Mar. 31, 1926, \$2,389,731,098; on Mar. 31, 1927, \$2,347,834,370; on Mar. 31, 1928, \$2,296,850,233; on Mar. 31, 1929, \$2,225,504,705 and on Mar. 31, 1930, \$2,177,763,959. See Table 18, p. 725.