

In the field of commodity taxes, while there was no change in the rate of general sales tax or the special excise rate, there were a number of specific revisions. The excise duty on cigarettes was reduced by \$2 a thousand, or by 4 cents for a package of 20 cigarettes. The stamp tax on cheques, money orders and other instruments was abandoned. The sales tax on books and on material used in books, magazines and newspapers was dropped. Certain materials used in the manufacture of sales-tax-free goods were also freed from sales tax.

The radio licence fee was abandoned and in its place the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation was given the revenue from the existing special excise tax of 15 p.c. on radio sets, on television sets and on their taxable parts.

All the tax changes together involved a reduction in revenue of \$361,000,000 in a full fiscal year and of \$237,000,000 in the year ended Mar. 31, 1954. The personal income-tax changes involved a reduction in taxes of \$185,000,000 in a full year and \$100,000,000 in the fiscal year 1953-54.

Prospective budgetary expenditure for 1953-54 was estimated at \$4,462,000,000 and prospective budgetary revenue at \$4,473,000,000, thus providing a surplus of \$11,000,000, or less than 0.25 p.c. of the revenue. Finally audited figures for the year ended Mar. 31, 1953, showed total budgetary revenues of \$4,361,000,000 and expenditures of \$4,337,000,000, leaving a surplus of \$24,000,000 or 0.5 p.c. of revenue.

Subsection 1.—Balance Sheets of the Federal Government

Table 7 shows the balance sheets of the Federal Government as at Mar. 31, 1952 and Mar. 31, 1953. The figures of this table are on a basis not strictly comparable to those in previous Year Books, chiefly because of changes in the method of accounting for cash.

7.—Balance Sheet of the Federal Government, as at Mar. 31, 1952 and 1953

Assets	1952	1953
	\$	\$
Assets—		
Cash and Other Current Assets—		
Cash in current and special deposits.....	148,214,187	255,836,979
Cash in hands of collectors and in transit.....	118,392,039	129,693,034
Cash in miscellaneous departmental imprest and advance accounts..	10,453,562	11,142,586
Other Liquid Assets—		
Exchange Fund account—advances represented by cash and securities.....	1,799,403,755	1,770,789,386
Securities investment account.....	58,896,205	59,472,985
Working Capital Advances—		
Crown corporations.....	23,927,192	23,927,192
Defence Production Revolving Fund.....	82,383,664	102,110,487
Temporary loan to Old Age Security Fund.....	—	99,483,324
Departmental.....	35,346,211	96,019,433
Miscellaneous accountable advances.....	9,184,941	12,795,715
Other Current Assets—		
Miscellaneous accounts receivable.....	33,410,269	30,538,798
	2,319,612,025	2,591,809,919
Loans to, and Investments in, Crown Agencies—		
Bank of Canada—capital stock.....	5,920,000	5,920,000
Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation—capital and loans.....	359,973,294	432,534,975
Canadian Farm Loan Board—capital stock and loans.....	27,321,572	28,921,347
Railway and steamship companies.....	903,865,398	1,045,687,379
Miscellaneous.....	175,637,641	192,124,119
	1,472,717,905	1,705,187,820