

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

Mr. HUGHES. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I take the opportunity of drawing the attention of the hon. the acting Minister of Militia to the fact that two important regiments of city corps, the 6th Fusiliers of Montreal and the 43rd Regiment of Ottawa, are not represented in the published list of regiments to furnish the quota to the Imperial contingent. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if that is a fact.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I may say to my hon. friend that I have not got the list by me at present, and therefore I cannot speak authoritatively. He may be correct in his statement. All I can say is that we should do our best to make it as representative as possible. But as we have got applications from about 2,000 officers, and we can only send twenty or thirty, there are difficulties in the way of meeting everybody's wishes.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved :

That the House resolve itself into committee to consider the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

He said : Mr. Speaker, I avail myself of this motion to address to the House such observations as may seem to be necessary at the present time in explaining the financial position of the Dominion ; and also to submit to the House the details of the tariff policy which, in the judgment of the Government, is best calculated to promote the welfare of the people of Canada. I feel sure that, as I proceed, I shall have abundant reason to ask the generous indulgence which the House is always ready to accord to one who, for the first time, undertakes a task of so great magnitude, a task which to me, I confess, is all the greater when I remember the long line of able and distinguished men who have preceded me in the office of Minister of Finance. My first duty will be to deal with the affairs of the fiscal year which ended on the 30th of June, 1896; and this portion of my speech must of necessity be somewhat of a statistical character. It will not be necessary for me to occupy the time of the House at great length in regard to the year 1895-96, because the House has already been placed in possession of the principal points of interest through the public accounts and the appropriation accounts which have already been laid on the Table. In each of the three classes into which our revenue is usually divided, namely, customs, excise and miscellaneous, there

Mr. BLAIR.

is a marked increase over the year of 1894-95. The amount of that betterment I will give in detail :

Service.	1895-96.	1894-95.	Increase.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Customs.....	19,833,279 48	17,640,466 00	2,192,813 48
Excise.....	7,926,005 94	7,805,732 71	120,273 23
Miscellaneous.....	9,859,305 30	8,531,930 76	327,374 54
Total.....	36,618,590 72	33,978,129 47	2,640,461 25

The total revenue of \$36,618,590 fell short of the estimate made by my predecessor in his financial statement of 31st January, 1896, to the extent of some \$370,000. Now, taking the report of my hon. friend the Controller of Customs as my authority, it will be found that on nearly all the general lines of imports we have received increased revenue over the year 1894-95. The following, however, are the main items of increase, sugar, of course, being the principal :—

Grain of all kinds.....	\$ 42,902
Flour and meal of all kinds.....	38,361
Carriages	211,737
Coal and coke.....	56,222
Cotton, manufactures of.....	111,794
Drugs, dyes, chemicals and medicines...	21,786
Flax, hemp and jute, manufactures of...	41,297
Fruits and nuts, dried.....	17,915
Fruits and nuts, green	11,549
Hats, caps and bonnets.....	13,472
Iron and steel, and manufactures of.....	223,123
Leather, manufactures of.....	11,683
Oils, coal, kerosene, and products of.....	18,597
Oils, all other.....	14,377
Paints and colours.....	10,024
Provisions, viz., butter, cheese, lard and meats	17,059
Seeds and roots.....	14,608
Silk, manufactures of.....	97,527
Soap of all kinds.....	10,351
Spirits and wines.....	84,754
Sugar of all kinds.....	894,428
Wood, and manufactures of.....	21,033
Wool, and manufactures of.....	231,569

Of the comparatively few classes of goods on which the customs revenue declined, the following may be cited :

Arrowroot, biscuit, rice, macaroni, &c... \$	38,395
Fancy goods.....	14,131
Glass, and manufactures of.....	18,485
Gutta percha and india-rubber, manufactures of.....	20,265

The second principal source of taxation, excise, shows an advance in the receipts from this important branch of our service. Of the different items included under this heading, tobacco and snuff proved the only cases in which the revenue fell behind that of the previous year. The following statement will exhibit the quantities taken for consumption, and the duties accrued thereon, of the several excisable items :—