

Estimates that that reduction is mainly composed of a reduction in connection with the grant to the Agriculture and Arts Association, that portion applied to the Provincial Exhibition ; and while the Government have not come to a definite conclusion as to whether that Exhibition shall be continued or not, we have thought best not to provide for that amount, taking the sense of the House as to whether the Exhibition shall be continued this year or not. It will be recollected that when the discussion was up before, very strong objections were raised to the continuance of the Exhibition, and it was then urged, and urged very strongly, and with a very great deal of force—with a force that I thought myself was unanswerable—that at any rate for that year, as the Exhibition was to be held in the eastern part of the Province, it should not be interfered with. The Exhibition was held, and it was not a financial success.

Then with regard to Hospitals and Charities, there is an increase of \$7,155, that increase being necessitated by the increased work done under the Act. For Maintenance and Repairs of Government Building we ask \$62,976 against \$56,580 last year, an increase of \$6,396. Then for Public Buildings, we ask this year \$281,412 against \$313,334 in 1887, or a reduction of \$31,922, but of course the Supplementary Estimates may increase that when they come down. I may mention in connection with that, that it is rarely that the full amount of the vote taken for Public Buildings is expended, because it is impossible to foresee what progress the contractors may make in the work ; therefore it is necessary to ask what is required to complete the works, and if they are not finished during the year, such portion of the appropriation as is not taken up has to be re-voted.

I do not know that there are any other particular items in connection with the Estimates that it is necessary I should bring before the House, further than to say that for Statute Consolidation we ask a further sum of \$21,500 this year which it is estimated will complete that work. It may be interesting to the House to know what amount has been expended on that service up to the present time. The total expenditure has been \$47,765.29, and adding the \$21,500 which we ask this year, will bring up the total expense of consolidation this time to \$69,265.29. The costs in 1877 was \$73,787.47. In Miscellaneous, we only ask \$68,100 against \$137,095 asked and \$141,816 expended last year. The estimate of last year, of course, included the cost of a general election, which accounts for \$69,549. There are only two items in connection with Miscellaneous