

Even as regards the transactions of the six months, from the 1st July, to the 31st December last, I am bound to repeat to the House what I have already in few words stated, that the greater part of that outlay was, from the necessity of the case, carried on at Ottawa. (Hear, hear.) We came into office here on the 15th July, at which time we had not, I think, in any department a single employee. We had nobody whatever to serve us. We had to bring here a temporary clerk of the Council, and call together hastily a few clerks and assistants of one sort or another, as we could find them. Does anybody imagine we could begin to make regular payments and work? We had no archives, no clerks, no departments, no staff, and we were going to our elections immediately. By a very happy foresight, however, the constitutional act provided for this emergency; authorising the Government of the Dominion, through the departments at Ottawa, to make every description of outlay, in advance, on account of the different Provinces, "to protect the republic from detriment." Of course, the Government at Ottawa made the payments necessary for our services. They assumed our duties as far as they could; under our responsibility for all they did. There may have been mistakes as to payments and receipts made, and so forth. If so, they will be corrected. But the fact remains, that the bulk of our receipts and outlays was taken charge of—not through our machinery—but from the necessity of the case, through that of the Ottawa departments. I have laid before the House a statement of those transactions, to which I will come in a very few minutes. I have also brought down our estimates of outlay for the 18 months, beginning with 1st July, 1867, and ending 31st December, 1868; and I shall be prepared shortly to say what I think of our propable revenue during the same period. Meantime, I do not pretend to keep back from the House at all, what I may call the imperfect character of the whole of this information. From the explanations I have already offered, it can be nothing but imperfect.

The appropriations I have to ask can only be, really, more in the nature of a vote of credit than anything else; and the statement of the receipts and expenses can be taken as only a sort of cash statement, not as a statement of what actually have been or should be held to have been the entire financial transactions of the period.

Speaking of the receipts for the first six months, we received from the Dominion the special subsidy for the half year, of \$35,000; and at Ottawa, according to the accounts kept there—because all these statements of Ottawa transactions are simply taken from the accounts kept in the Ottawa departments—an amount of \$127,843.65; representing collections in Ottawa from various sources of revenue.

But before proceeding further with this side of the account, I may, perhaps, better state the other side. First, there was disbursed at Ottawa, on our account, \$448,396.10. The different heads of disbursements will be found on that side of the return. There was also disbursed at Quebec during the six months \$36,733.92, making a total of \$485,130.02. These disbursements were met, as I have stated, first by the sum of \$35,000 which the Dominion remitted here in the first instance; next by the amount of \$127,843.65, which they received for us from various sources;