

greatly needs aid. [Cheers.] The changes thus proposed will not give me much revenue this year, but will introduce a better system, and give us something on which to start fair next year.

I hope it will not be thought that the smallness of these changes is indicative of any feebleness of policy, or uncertainty as to what that policy should be. We are not prepared in this direction to do a great deal this year. Coming as we do before the House with the frank statement that we do not yet, and cannot for months, know what is our financial position—if we yet asked for considerable changes in our machinery of taxation, we should be doing an unwarrantable thing. [Cheers.] There can be no question the little matters I have alluded to are things that ought to be done, no matter whether the Province is rich or poor. They are little equalisations of revenue and expenditure, right in their nature whether the Province wants money or not. They are calculated to facilitate collections, and cause them to be obtained in the proper way. But as to the policy itself, of which these measures are a small part, I earnestly protest against its being supposed the Government are in any doubt or uncertainty, or utter their views with any hesitation whatever.

Let me refer, first, for a moment, to the matter of our Crown Lands, and the great questions connected with them. These lands form an important portion of our economy; with which are bound up the material interests of our people. Connected with them are the largest of what I may call the material duties devolving upon us, respecting the development of our agriculture, colonization and immigration. It is perfectly true, that so far from coming before the House with a project for the giving away of these lands, which would involve the destruction of a very valuable asset, there being not far short of \$1,400,000 due on our Crown Lands, we look to a policy calculated to lead to the collection of the best revenue from them that we well can, and as speedily and easily as possible. We do not seek to collect those arrears, or hereafter draw revenue from our lands, with a view to increasing the general revenue, for payment of salaries, or maintenance of extravagant staffs, or anything of that sort. We approve of a liberal and considerate policy as respects the settler. These Crown Lands we are quite prepared to view as in the strictest sense a trust property—to be managed by us for the benefit of the Province; not in the sense of merely augmenting its revenue, but in the direct interest of colonization within the Province,—for the drawing to it of immigration,—the development to the utmost at once of agriculture, manufactures and art. [Cheers.] The House, I am sure, will see with us, that it is better we should derive revenue from our lands, and raise their value, by spending it on them, than act as if we thought them worthless, tempting people to refuse what nobody has to pay for. It would be a suicidal policy to give away our lands in this way. In this sense, and to this end, I must repeat I am an opponent of the free grant system. But, as I have again and again said, I am not against free grants under exceptional circumstances. In many parts of our territory, such exceptional circumstances do undoubtedly exist. To carry out our colonization roads, which ought to be pushed with energy, and which will be pushed by us, a considerable development of the free grant system must take place. Quite an amount of the lands in the vicinity of colonization roads, that you