

CANADA'S BIGGEST YEAR

The Budget Speech Makes Clear the Dominion's Development.

No Tariff Changes to be Introduced This Session.

OTTAWA, Ont., May 2.—The galleries of the house of commons were well filled today to hear the minister of finance deliver his budget speech. In opening Mr. Fielding said he had the pleasure of dealing with the most prosperous period in Canada's history. The operations of the past year had surpassed his expectations as outlined in the budget speech of a year ago. While a marked business revival had contributed to this he was convinced that the policy of the government was an important contributory cause. The revenue last year was \$40,555,293 or \$1,256,000 more than his estimate and \$2,125,000 more than the revenue of the previous year. Customs revenue showed an increase of \$2,229,645. There was a decrease in inland revenue returns but the net increase was \$2,725,455. Proceeding Mr. Fielding gave the details of the various articles on which there had been an increase.

Mr. Fielding said that the minister of finance next took up expenditure on account of consolidated fund. Last year it was \$33,832,525. This was \$738,000 larger than his estimate, and \$482,788 more than the previous year. The principal increases were on account of sinking fund, public works, mounted police, railways and militia and immigration. There were decreases in militia, militia and post-office department. Thanks to the business like management of the post-office department the post office department increased \$234,871 and the expenditure decreased \$214,666, a betterment of \$449,537. This improvement led to the reduction of the domestic postage rate and the introduction of the imperial penny postage. (Cheers.)

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ment and what the Conservatives would have spent would be \$995,000 in favor of the Liberals. So that no matter what way the result of 1898 was taken it was not meant to meet the actual expenditure. That an element was intended that year was stated by Conservative members of the late government.

Proceeding Mr. Fielding said there was a tendency among the opposition to say that they could reduce public expenditure, but that they did not always find themselves to carry out their expectations when they got an opportunity. (Conservative member) Sir Charles Tupper, in 1878, said he could carry the government for less than Mr. Mackenzie did, but beginning with 1879 he increased it. Instead, Mr. Fielding reviewed the increase of expenditure per capita from 1867 to 1898. In 1868 it was \$4.14, in 1873 \$7.53 and in 1898 \$7.25. Canada, was left out of calculation. Last year the expenditure under the Liberal was \$739, which was lower than all other years except 1896 for 14 years. When the expenditure simply kept pace with population there was no ground for complaint. Even if there had been an increase under the Liberal a satisfactory reason for it could have been given. In connection with the expenditure Mr. Fielding referred to the theory for economy and pointed out the different meanings of the word, as a man wanted to do it, or as a man wanted to do it, or as a man wanted to do it.

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