

The Colonist.

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PROVINCIAL ESTIMATES.

The Provincial Estimates for the year ending March 31st, 1912 have been submitted to the Legislature. They fill a book of forty-two pages, and are of great interest generally as well as locally. The House will be asked to vote the great sum of \$11,025,399.76. Adding to this the Supplementary Estimates, \$1,442,553.47, and we have a grand total of \$12,467,953.23 which the Legislature will be asked to appropriate.

The revenue is estimated at \$3,192,100.06, which is an increase of 14 per cent. The rule in the case of estimated revenue since the present government came in has been that the actual receipts have exceeded it, and it is very probable that this may be the case during the ensuing fiscal year. Of the amount the total received from the Dominion government is \$689,151.06.

The new expenditures contemplated amount, as stated above, to \$11,025,399.76, of which amount \$5,507,990.00, or within four thousand dollars of one half is for public works, and out of this \$2,741,020 will go for roads, streets, bridges, wharves, steamboat subsidies and ferries. These items have to do with the establishment of transportation facilities within the province, and the expenditure cannot fail to be productive of very great benefit to the public. They show an increase of \$912,000 over this year. The public debt entails a charge upon the finances of the province amounting to \$527,869.11, which is very slightly lower than for the current year. Salaries show about a 30 per cent. increase, due in part to individual increases, but chiefly to the increased number of persons in the public service, which the growth of the province renders necessary. It will be noted that there is an increase of \$1,000 a year to each minister, whose salaries will for the future stand as follows: For the Premier, \$9,000; for each minister other than the Premier, \$6,000. As salaries go, these allowances are not high. The other day mention was made of the fact that the superintendent of the Trail Smelter had left that plant to accept a salary of \$60,000 a year, and yet this gentleman was largely able to demonstrate his fitness for such a salary. By the wise policy of the Mines Department of the Province, the Minister responsible for which only receives as Minister one-tenth of what the manager's new salary is to be. The prosecuting attorney of Vancouver receives a higher salary than the Attorney-General of the Province, and the City Engineer of Prince Rupert gets within \$1,000 of what the Province pays its Minister of Public Works.

For details and comparison of the proposed expenditures reference may be made to the synopsis of the estimates given elsewhere; but a few items may be made the subject of passing comment. The allowance to the Agent-General of the Province in London has been increased from \$15,000 to \$25,000. This is to cover salary and all the expenses of the office. The very excellent service which Mr. Turner has rendered the Province justifies the increase, but in addition it must be borne in mind that he is brought into competition especially with Australia, which empowers its representative to make large out