

their means of subsistence therein are most praiseworthy, and it is not impossible that, with time and patience, we may succeed in a certain measure in accomplishing, on a large scale, what has been attempted with some success in a small way in other parts of the country. I was specially gratified, and my honourable colleagues of this House, no doubt, shared the pleasure with me, that, in the preparation of the Estimates for the ensuing year, due regard has been had to economy, so far as was compatible with the efficiency of the public service, and it is evident that the Government is awake to the fact that the burden of our public expenditure has about reached the limits marked out by prudence, and that it cannot be largely increased without bearing too heavily on the tax-payers. The proof that the leading plank in the platform of the present Government has not fallen into disfavour with the people in general is the fact that, in the individual elections, quite a number of which have taken place within a year, the friends of the Government have not lost an inch of ground, and have carried several strongholds from the Opposition. From the shores of the Atlantic to the shores of the Pacific, the great voice of the people has once more proclaimed that the country still places confidence in the Administration of the day. The latest echo of that voice which, under our Constitutional and Parliamentary system, makes and un-makes Governments, has just this instant reached us from the great county of Argenteuil. In selecting a gentleman personally so estimable as Dr. Christie, the electors of that county were confident of doing well; but they felt that, by substituting for him a Conservative and Protectionist, the Hon. Mr. Abbott, they were doing still better. I regret this for the sake of the hon. the leader of the Opposition, whose companions in arms are far stronger in valour than in numbers, but I rejoice at it for the sake of the country. The people see the various industries of the country resuming increased activity, furnishing more constant and remunerative employment to a greater number of persons, and, despite the sophisms of Free-trade theorists, they see that agriculture and trade alike feel the impulse given to home production, and cannot but benefit by a better home market induced by a re-

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stricting of foreign competition. It is natural in the elaboration of a new Tariff, more especially after a change of fiscal policy, that more or less of a margin should be allowed for unforeseen matters, so that it is not surprising that experience should have shown the expediency of adopting certain changes of detail in the Tariff adopted last Session. It will be our duty to assist His Excellency's Ministers in that task, in place of seeking uselessly to embarrass them. By preparing a measure for the re-organisation of the Civil Service, the Government have earned a further title to the gratitude of the people, for it is time something was done in the matter. From a thorough reform of the Civil Service, many important advantages must result. Offices will be filled in many cases by more competent persons, consequently a reduction in number will be effected; the work will be better done and will cost less; merit will be more easily recognised; Ministers will lose less of their valuable time; the representatives of the people will be more independent, and the members of the Government also. Besides, we may hope that the struggle for public offices will undergo a salutary relaxation, which is much to be desired, unless we want to see the number of public servants equal, or in fact exceed, those of the served. The necessity of a consolidation of the Inland Revenue Laws was keenly felt, for they are obscure, incomplete, and often defective. As regards the mode of dealing with native tobacco more especially there is great need of amendment and modification. While affording us a real improvement in this respect, the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue would afford us a pleasant surprise if, some fine day, circumstances should enable him to tell us that he had taken steps with a view to ascertain what kinds of tobacco would succeed best in this country, and the mode of culture it would be most advisable to teach and commend to cultivators, as is done with respect, for instance, to the cultivation of the sugar beet, so as to substitute as far as possible a native for a foreign product. I see here a good source of future revenue for the Government, and of wealth for many of our farmers. The other measures announced in the Speech from the Throne, in relation to Crown Lands, Public Works, the Indians of the