

sion. Though it may be perfectly true that we are alongside of a friendly country, and though we willingly recognise the mode in which the United States Government have discharged their duties towards us after the inroad into Canada, still we must all feel that the security of the country is to be found in its own power—not in the forbearance of another, or in the discharge of duty by another, but in its own ability to maintain our independence and safety. (Cheers.) Having these views, the Government desire they should be in a position, whatever may happen, to defend our borders against lawless attacks. We do not apprehend anything beyond that. But no one can look at the events which are passing in the United States, without feeling that the Fenian Snake is scotched, but not killed—that it may revive at any moment—and that this country may again require to call its young men to the front to meet a lawless horde. Under these circumstances it is necessary we should be in a position still more effectually to meet the difficulty, and repel any aggression that may be attempted. (Hear, hear.) With regard to Public Works and Buildings, which is the next item to which I would call the attention of the Committee, it will be observed that the estimate is considerably in excess of the amount expended last year. The Government on this occasion have felt it necessary to include in the estimate all the expenditure that they believed could come within the year, and I may add that that consideration has guided the Government in the preparation of the estimates in every particular item—and for this very manifest reason, that, unless sufficient provision were made now, very considerable inconvenience might arise in the event of any delay occurring in the bringing about of Confederation; therefore, a much larger amount than the probable expenditure has been estimated for the public works. I will not enter into the particulars of it, however, because they will be brought down to the House in a day or two by the Commissioner of Public Works. I merely state that a large portion of the amount is to provide for liabilities incurred for work to be done in completing the Parliament Buildings. With reference to the item of Roads and Bridges, I may mention that the policy which has been pursued by the Government has been to exclude all works of a merely local character. The estimates embrace the usual vote for colonization roads, which it has not been thought proper to stop for the current year, and an item of \$9,000 for the completion of the Matapedia military road; but no work of a local character will be proceeded with. Expenditure of that kind the Government look upon as belonging more particularly to the governments of Upper and Lower Canada, which, it is hoped, may in a short time be in operation. With regard to the Seigniorial Indemnity to the Townships, the amount voted last year has not been wholly expended, and the balance of \$20,000 has been carried forward in the usual mode. If the estimate for the past year was larger than the expenditure under this head, it was only because parties did not apply for the amount to which they were entitled,