

revenues are diminishing, it seems an enormous sum of money to be voting in this way. We have had the statement of the Finance Minister in which he estimates the expenditures for this year, 1914-15, at \$190,000,000. I presume, therefore, that the amount appropriated in the Supply Bill may not all be spent; but even when we compare the Finance Minister's estimated expenditure with the estimated revenue of \$130,000,000 for the same year 1914-15 we see there is a deficit of \$60,000,000 to be provided for. This at the present time, when money is very scarce and it is difficult to arrange finances, is a very serious prospect for the country to face.

It has been said on several occasions by members of the Government that they are very much burdened by the commitments which the late Government left behind them. It may be interesting if I, for a few minutes, place before the House some figures dealing with that question; but before attempting to show how certain money has been expended, I want to put before the House the figures of the revenue and expenditure, to show how both have been increasing for some years past. I give the following table of receipts and expenditures chargeable to Consolidated Fund Account, and also the total receipts and expenditures.

	Consolidated Fund.		Total.	
	Receipts.	Expenditures.	Receipts.	Expenditures.
1896-97..	37,829,778	38,349,759	37,829,778	42,972,755
1901-02..	58,050,709	50,759,391	58,052,333	63,970,799
1905-06..	80,139,360	67,240,640	80,141,393	83,277,641
1910-11..	117,780,409	87,774,198	117,884,328	122,861,250
1911-12..	136,108,217	98,161,440	136,108,217	137,142,082
1912-13..	168,689,903	112,059,537	160,690,427	144,456,877
1913-14..	163,174,394	127,384,472	163,174,394	186,241,047
1914-15..	130,000,000	140,000,000	190,000,000
1915-16..	120,000,000	140,000,000	199,000,000

Going back to the year 1896, and taking it in five year periods, we find the total receipts in the year 1896-7 were \$37,000,000 odd. The total expenditure at the same time was \$42,000,000. In 1901-2 the total receipts were \$58,000,000, and the total expenditures \$63,000,000. In 1905-6 the receipts were \$80,000,000, and the expenditures \$83,000,000. In 1910-11 the receipts were \$117,000,000, and the expenditures \$122,000,000. In 1911-12 the receipts were \$136,000,000 and the expenditure \$137,000,000. In 1912-13 the receipts were \$168,000,000 and the expenditures \$144,000,000. In 1913-14 the receipts were \$163,000,000 and the expenditures \$186,000,000. Those figures are taken from the public accounts and are the exact figures issued by the Government. Anything that we have further is simply an estimate of the Finance Minister which he states in his Budget speech. For instance, he gives the following figures: in 1914-15 he calculated his revenue at \$130,000,000, and his total expenditure at \$190,000,000. In 1915-16 his revenue was \$120,000,000, and taking into account the sum of \$15,000,000 he has to provide for taking up treasury bills that will shortly fall due, his

total expenditure, according to the Budget speech, would come up to \$199,000,000. I would draw hon. gentlemen's attention to the way the revenue has increased during those years up to 1912-13, and of course the expenditure has gone up as well, but when we compare the year 1911-12 with the year 1912-13 the receipts had increased by \$32,000,000 odd over the year 1911-12. The expenditure had only increased by seven million odd. The consequence was that in the year 1912-13 the Government were in the happy position of being able to decrease the national debt of the country by twenty-five million odd. It seems when they came into this happy position they did not approve of this condition of things. They apparently set to work to see how they could spend more money, because they did not think it was a good thing for the country to be paying off the national debt. We find therefore that in the year 1913-14 the receipts decreased by over \$5,000,000, the expenditure increased by \$41,000,000. The Government, therefore, brought about a condition of things which was exactly opposite to what it was the year before, and instead of being able to decrease the