

Dominion has not been considered oppressive during the last five years. (*Hear, hear.*)

Let us, before we go from the consideration of the past to that of the future, consider what has been the experience of the past. It is that we have had a moderate tariff averaging only 12 3/4 percent upon the whole of the goods entered for consumption in the Dominion for the past five years. We have paid all interest and charges and expenses, and enormous sums of money for the construction of lighthouses, and in various other ways have afforded facilities to the trade and commerce of the Dominion, and have still left a sum per annum that would have warranted this Government in paying interest on a debt of \$30,000,000 more than the debt upon which we have been paying interest for the last five years.

This is an important starting point in our history. With reference to this matter, I wish it borne in mind, because I do not wish hon. members to forget this point when I bring it up at a future period, that the surplus we have had over and above, not only paying interest on the debt and all charges, but at the same time depositing \$2,300,000 towards the Sinking Fund for the redemption of the debt, would have been sufficient to pay interest on \$30,000,000 of more debt than we have.

I wish to make one or two observations of some importance relative to the receipts and expenditure of last year, under the supervision of my predecessor. On the 13th of April last he estimated the revenue from customs at about \$12,500,000. He made various other estimates with reference to excise, public works, post office and miscellaneous revenue; and I hold in my hand a statement which shows that notwithstanding the estimate made by my predecessor at the time, the customs revenue, instead of being \$12,500,000 went up to \$12,787,982. After paying back from the money received \$200,000, duty that had been paid on tea and coffee, as refunded under an order of the House, the increase on excise was \$185,651, which was extraordinary and unexpected, but it may be explained in this way.

At that time it was supposed that an additional excise duty would be imposed, and just before the statement was made by my predecessor, a large quantity of goods, on which excise duties were paid, was taken out of bond, and a large amount was gained in that year which this year has been lost. We then come to Public Works which realized \$11,729 over the estimate, and there was also an excess from post office of \$92,374, miscellaneous \$95,157, and there was a deficiency in the stamp duty of \$808, making an excess over and above the estimate of \$664,813.

We find that while there was an increase of revenue the expenditure did not come up to the estimate. This has been the case every year. On Public Works, we have had a very considerable deficiency, amounting last year to \$654,852. All these estimates are made liberally, sufficiently large to cover with certainty all that would be required, and then it very frequently occurs that delays

take place in obtaining titles to land required for public buildings, and generally there is an amount unexpended under that item.

I wish to call the attention of the House to a few items in which there has been a reduction. Under the head of Civil Government there has been a reduction of \$25,492. I know there is a very general impression throughout the country that the Government have been most extravagant with reference to the expenditure under this head. I know that an opinion very generally prevails that such is the case but I think if there is any one point in regard to which the Government stand fairly before this House and the country, and are able to defend what they have done, it is in reference to this matter.

Recently I asked the Auditor General to prepare for me a statement of the increase for the five years since Confederation under this head. In the account of 1867-68 there were certain expenditures which were not formerly charged against the Civil Service, for instance in the Board of Works, certain engineers were employed by that Department on outside service, and the works to which they were attached were charged with their services. These, however, are now charged against the Department.

Then the Adjutant General's branch of the Militia Department is another instance. In 1867 the expense of that branch was charged against the Militia Department; now it is carried into the Civil Service item. There was at that time a system prevailing with reference to the post-office service, by which a large amount of printing was performed under the direction and by the orders of the different postmasters in various parts of the Dominion. Under the existing arrangements a large number of the blank forms and returns were sent out by the Department, and the cost of printing them appears under the "Contingencies" of the Department.

Then there is a new department—that of the Queen's Printer and the stationery; both of which branches, though adding to the expenses of the Civil Service list, have been instrumental in saving large sums of money; while under the Post-office Department they have been establishing savings banks in all directions, involving the receipt of \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000. This has required additional clerks in the Department here and additional post-offices in all parts of the Dominion.

Taking all this into consideration and deducting the salaries of the Governors for the two new Provinces established since 1867, and notwithstanding the increased cost of the Post-office Department, involving an extra expenditure of \$27,000, the difference between the expenditure under the Civil Service head in 1867 and 1872 was \$594,000 in 1867, against \$663,000; but the absolute, actual difference was only \$11,000.

How has this been accomplished? The fact that under the Civil Service Act, \$50 a year was added to the salaries of the clerks would alone bring the sum up to the present amount; but by the reduction of the incidental expenses of the Department the sum has been reduced by an amount equivalent to the addition to the salaries of the clerks. Then there is a reduction of \$13,153 under the head of