

Hon. Mr. CARTIER—You class together stamps, fees and the Jury fund?

Hon. Mr. DUNKIN—Yes; the total we expect is \$205,327. Then, the Cullers' fees should give us \$115,974, just about balancing the expenses. I suppose I shall lose a trifle as between the receipts from and the expenses of this service. Municipal Loan Fund, \$115,500; I think I am within the mark there. I turn now to Education, through which Department certain incidental collections come—the estimate is \$16,890; St. Vincent de Paul House of Correction, \$12,000; St. John's Lunatic Asylum, \$1,800; casual revenue—and here I think I am within the mark—\$6,000. All these afford a grand total of \$2,747,000. This is independent of a trifle of revenue I count on from some slight legislative measures which I have partly hinted at, and of which I shall presently speak. I think I may safely say, taking it in the gross, the revenue will exceed \$2,750,000. I hope, indeed, that with the slight changes of system I shall speak of presently, the gross receipts may reach or go beyond \$2,760,000. I think there will be a difference between it and the outlay I contemplate, of something not far from \$700,000. I cannot pretend to speak accurately. Against this surplus comes that unknown quantity of charge for the provincial debt, of which I have no right to make any statement, except that I am quite satisfied it cannot approach to that. [Loud cheers.] I am sure the House will do us the justice to believe that we are most anxious our receipts should exceed our expenditure for this first start [cheers]; that when the House meets next, we may be able to show that our statement of the affairs of the Province is not such as we need be at all discouraged about; and that with a moderate adjustment of our system we can go on efficiently and well for the time to come. [Cheers.]

As to changes of system connected with our ways and means, I have a few words to say; but I admit that what is proposed to be done is, necessarily, but little this year. I have given notice of a measure which I shall introduce to-morrow on the subject of stamps. I have stated that the stamp revenue and the other items connected therewith, exceed \$205,000. Of course the whole is not connected with stamps, but a very large proportion of it is. I should have said, that in this estimate registry stamps are included.

Hon. Mr. CARTIER—The hon. gentleman has said that stamps of all kinds are included, as well as certain charges unconnected with stamps.

Hon. Mr. DUNKIN—Of course. When I first drew up the estimate, I kept the registry stamps separate; but afterwards I blocked them all together, as insuring less uncertainty. The working of the stamp system within the last few years has been of the most satisfactory kind. There is no doubt they afford the cheapest and best mode of collecting a certain kind of revenue. I am unable at present to come before the House with a consolidation of our stamp law. I may say we have two acts on the subject of stamps: one, under which certain law stamps are issued and collected, and another, under which registry office stamps are collected. It is impolitic to do much more in regard to these laws at present, than amend them in such a way as to empower Government to make registry stamps produce a revenue equal to the registry expenditure. They were intended