

April 30, 1872

annuities under recent treaties; \$50,000 for losses in Manitoba; \$70,000 for Surveys, and \$35,000 for the Manitoba Expeditionary Force.

The aggregate expenditure for the current year is not likely to exceed \$17,040,604, and I therefore venture to anticipate a surplus for the present year of \$3,115,467. (*Cheers.*)

I now come to the consideration of the revenue for the coming year, and it is satisfactory for one to be able to state that notwithstanding the deductions of last year, which may be assumed at about \$800,000, the revenue will be rather in excess of the last, even making allowance for British Columbia.

I need scarcely say I have consulted my colleagues the Ministers of Customs (Hon. Mr. Tilley) and Inland Revenue (Hon. Mr. Morris), who are at the head of the departments which furnish the bulk of the revenue. I feel I am justified in estimating Customs at \$12,500,000; Inland Revenue at \$4,625,000; Stamps at \$200,000; Post Office \$700,000; Railroads, Telegraph lines and Manitoba road \$1,030,000; Canals and other works, \$580,000; Miscellaneous, \$1,000,000; giving an aggregate revenue of \$20,630,000.

I shall refer very briefly to the Estimates. The aggregate amount is \$29,675,460, but from this must be deducted the amount required to meet reduction of debt, \$92,234 and expenditure on proposed public works, amounting in the aggregate to \$10,042,734, leaving estimates chargeable against Consolidated Revenue Fund 19,632,726 dollars.

I might, therefore, fairly contemplate a surplus next year of about one million, were it not that my experience leads me to anticipate Supplementary Estimates, which I hope, however, will not be excessive.

I do not intend to comment at any length on the Estimates. I feel assured that they will be scrutinized with great care by gentlemen opposite. I do not wish to enter into details with respect to items, because my hon. friends at the heads of departments, who have brought forward estimates and are more particularly responsible for them, will be prepared to vindicate them better than I can do; but at the same time I would remind the House that for many years, when the revenue was scarcely sufficient to meet the expenditure absolutely necessary, a great part of the public service was literally starved.

It is now a fitting time when our finances are in a more prosperous condition, to come forward to erect those necessary public buildings which in various parts of the Dominion are absolutely essential. (*Hear.*)

The Public Works estimate may appear large by comparison of the aggregate amount with former years, and it may be admitted that if any difficulty should arise many buildings and works might be postponed, but I hope and believe that the House will concur

with the Government in thinking that when the revenue is sufficient to meet the charges upon it, they ought to seize the opportunity of erecting buildings very much required for the public service.

There is another point to which I wish to refer. In the estimates for Public Works are included a number of items which, though charged against the current revenue of the year, will produce an income and entail no burden on the country, such as harbours and other works. The lighthouse service is no doubt a heavy charge, but it must be borne in mind, that every individual in the country is interested in this service by which the navigation is improved. We are competing for the trade of the Great West, and cannot succeed if we neglect what is essential to success. The Gulf and River St. Lawrence has had a bad name in days gone by. Insurance rates were high, and freights, of course, high in proportion.

My hon. colleague the Minister of Fisheries (Hon. Senator Mitchell), is thoroughly alive to the wants of the trade, and I can state from my own knowledge that several of his proposed works would have been in former estimates, but that we did not think it right to increase that branch of the expenditure too much. The Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Mr. Pope) has also made large demands, but I believe there is no expenditure more likely to be reproductive than that which is incurred for the promotion of immigration. My hon. friend has entered into his work with zeal and energy, and he will be able no doubt to account for the expenditure in a manner satisfactory to the House. (*Cheers.*)

I feel that I would not discharge my duty on the present occasion if I were to abstain altogether from entering into the subject of the very large prospective demand for Public Works, and its bearing on the public revenue and expenditure. It would be a dereliction of duty in a Minister of Finance to abstain from all reference to a contemplated expenditure of no less than forty million dollars, involving an addition of fifty per cent to our debt.

I own, however, that I approach this subject with some hesitation and reluctance, owing to my unwillingness to make any reference in a financial statement to a question of the gravest political importance, which has not yet been discussed in the House. I refer, of course, to the Treaty of Washington, but especially to the arrangement made with the Imperial Government for an Imperial guarantee for a portion of our anticipated loan.

I shall endeavour as far as possible to avoid discussing those branches of the question which have no bearing on Finance, but I cannot, entertaining the views which I do, avoid submitting them for the candid consideration of the House on this occasion.

It is now apparent to the House and the public, that Imperial and Canadian Governments were not for many months in a state of accord on the subject of the Treaty of Washington. I have no doubt that we on this side have been charged in England with great selfishness, with utter disregard of any interest but our own, while on the other hand, we have been inclined to think the Imperial