

mit on a future occasion, will do more to encourage our trade with France and to develop our trade with England and the United States than any other measures which this Committee could adopt.

Mr. McGEE—Will the Finance Minister inform the House whether there has been any correspondence between the Government of this country and that of France?

Hon. Mr. GALT—I may state to my hon. friend that no official correspondence could take place between a Colonial Government and the Government of a foreign country. The French Government, however, have in the person of their consul here, the Baron Boilleau, a gentleman of great intelligence and of almost universal knowledge—(hear, hear.)—who has aided us in the development of our trade with France to such an extent as must make him and the country he represents worthy of the warmest thanks of every Canadian. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. McGEE—My object in putting the question was to elicit the manner in which this desirable state of things has been brought about. The inference I draw from the Finance Minister's remarks is that communication must have been had with some one connected with France, so as to have produced the corresponding action of which he has spoken.

Hon. Mr. GALT—The inference was a correct one. Although no official correspondence can take place, fortunately the distinguished gentleman to whom I have referred has seen the importance of developing the trade of this country with France, and has pressed his Government to extend those facilities to our trade which had previously by treaty been extended to the trade of England. (Hear, hear.)

I have now, Sir, very nearly completed the task which I imposed upon myself when I first rose to address the Committee. I have endeavoured frankly to place before you the state in which the finances of the country will in my opinion be, in the year 1862. I have stated what provision I considered ought to be made for those necessities in this year, and the mode in which that provision might be made. I have also gone further, and indicated that I thought the time had arrived when circumstances were favourable to the reconsideration of our customs and excise duties. I have also stated to the Committee the sources from which I expect to derive the revenue for the year.—I have said that I regard the consumption of the country in other articles as