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THE ESTIMATES.

THE new Minister of Finance the Hon. W. T. White, on Wednesday laid on the table of the House of Commons the Borden Government's first main estimates. The aggregate is about \$6,000,000 less than last year. Under consolidated funds the Government ask for a vote of \$104,919,304.86, and charged to capital account \$44,870,372.82, making a total of \$149,789,677.68, as compared with \$156,079,538.73 for 1911-1912.

The vote for public works is cut down \$4,000,000. The provincial subsidies are necessarily increased as the result of the census, Quebec getting as its share \$1,971,704.68, an increase of \$285,125.60. There is to be voted \$2,000,000 for the construction of the Hudson's Bay Railway and \$727,000 for dredging the St. Lawrence from Montreal to Father Point and \$841,000 for the ship channel. For post office buildings in Montreal and Westmount \$370,000 is provided.

The Militia vote is increased by over \$400,000 and includes \$75,000 for drilling cadet corps. The supplementary estimates will provide for new armories and other military buildings.

FRENCH CABINET CRISIS.

THE downfall of the Caillaux cabinet came with dramatic suddenness. The return to the Foreign Office of M. Delcasse, who was forced out of the French Government practically at the dictation of Germany, in place of M. Justin DeSeives, who has just been forced out by French resentment regarding his secret negotiations with Berlin over the Moroccan question, has naturally created as much excitement in Germany as it has in France. The conservative papers in Berlin characterise the reappointment of Delcasse as a bare-faced affront to Germany and a serious menace to peace. The financial papers take a milder and re-assuring tone and express the hope that he will justify his reputation as a discreet man and declare that Great Britain rather than France is the dangerous factor in the situation. But election times are like summer, when all signs fail.

SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENCE.

SOUTH Africa is setting a good example of preparation for war in time of peace. The government's scheme of defence is embodied in a Bill published in the Official Gazette. As in Canada all citizens are in-

cluded in the militia, but the government will train every year the number thought necessary for defence. A certain number of day and night drills will be provided for recruits between the ages of seventeen and twenty-five in addition to fifteen days' training annually. Rifle association training will be provided for citizens who are not undergoing military training and in addition they will each be taxed £1 a year for twenty-four years. The coloured population will not have the privilege of serving or contributing. The defence forces will be divided as follows:—An active citizen force, a permanent force, a coast garrison force. These will form the first line of defence. The citizen force reserve will be the second line and the national reserve the third line. The active citizen force will consist of citizens between 17 and 25 years of age, and it is estimated that 20,000 to 25,000 men will be of sufficient strength. The permanent force will consist of five regiments of South African Mounted Riflemen, totalling 2,500, two being in the Cape and one in each of the other provinces, absorbing the existing Mounted Police and Cape Mounted Rifles.

TRUST CONTROL.

MR. Victor Morawetz who assisted in framing the charter of the United States Steel Corporation, has been giving the Interstate Commerce Committee of the Senate his ideas on trust control. He suggests that: "A national commission similar to the Interstate Commerce Commission should be created with jurisdiction over all interstate and international trade and commerce, except transportation, over which the Interstate Commerce Commission has jurisdiction. This commission should have power:

"(a) To require reports of any corporation regularly engaged in interstate commerce and to require all contracts and combinations between competitors in interstate commerce to be filed with the commission;

"(b) Upon the application of any citizen or of its own motion, to investigate the interstate commerce transactions of corporations and individuals;

"(c) To determine, after giving a hearing to the parties in interest, whether any contracts, combinations or other acts complained of are in violation of the anti-trust act;

"(d) Parties proposing to enter into a contract or combination should have the right to apply to the commission for an order determining whether the proposed contract or combination would be in viola-