

Public Instruction, 1887-88	337,010
Do 1886-87	322,235
Increase	14,775
Public works and buildings, 1887-1888	94,411
Do. 1886-87	57,844
Increase	36,567
Sundries, 1887-88	27,469
Do. 1886-87	16,849
Increase	10,620
Crown lands, 1887-88	124,050
Do. 1886-87	110,000
Increase	14,050

It will thus be seen that there is an augmentation in all the services which are most easily controlled. Where, then, are the evidences that the promises of economy were fulfilled.

The hon. treasurer has given us but scanty information as to the current year and the probable results at its close. It is a reserve on his part which certainly savors of prudence, as it was his interest not to provoke discussion on that point. I must however gratify the impulse to enlarge on it a little further. At the present moment and with the official documents in our possession, we may make an approximate calculation of the amount of the ordinary expenses of the current year. We have just seen that for the nine months ending with the 31st of March they amounted to \$2,250,653. It seems certain, then, that on the 30th of June they will reach the figure of \$3,350,060. The Government had voted the following sums last year :

Ordinary general budget for 1887-88	\$3,015,329
First supplementary budget	67,960
Special orders to May 16	180,003
Second suppl. budget now asked for	123,282
Codification of laws	45,000
Total	\$3,431,573

If the House vote the supplementary budget that has been submitted, expenses amounting to \$3,431,573 will have been authorized during the current year. I do not exaggerate, then, when I say that the real expenses of the present year will reach \$3,350,000, supposing that the credits voted be not exhausted.

Let us compare the ordinary expenses of the current year with those of the last complete year of the former Government :

Expenses of 1887-88	\$3,350,000
" 1885-86	2,961,563
Increase	\$ 388,437

This comparison shows an increase of nearly \$400,000. It is thus, forsooth, that the present Government practice economy by augmenting the expenses by four hundred thousand dollars in a single year.

Replying last Friday to certain remarks of the hon. leader of the Opposition, the hon. Prime Minister admitted that the financial operations of the current year were far from satisfactory. I give him credit for the frankness of the acknowledgment, but he does wrong when he tries to throw the responsibility, partially at least, on his predecessors. We may ask, however, whether the Ministry purposes to conduct the operations of the coming year more satisfactorily. Evidently they do not, if we may judge by the general budget which they ask the House to vote. They ask us for ordinary expenses of 1888-89, credits amounting to \$3,277,359, to which amount it is only fair to add the special credit of \$63,000 for the codification of the laws, and the credits, amounting to \$17,000, for various public works imputable to revenue, as in the past, because those expenses have always been reckoned among the ordinary expenses of the year. The addition of those credits brings the entire figure up to \$3,358,259. Nor is that all. We may expect that the Government will ask for a first supplementary budget before the end of the year and a second at the next session of the Legislature,—both being included within the financial year, 1888-89. Nor shall I exaggerate if I set down those supplementary budgets at \$150,000 which will bring the ordinary expenses of 1888-89 to the relatively enormous amount of \$3,500,000 in round numbers, or an increase of \$540,000 on those of 1885-86, for which the former Government is entirely responsible. Clearly then we have not entered upon a reign of rigorous economy, but rather on an era of rapidly increasing expenditure.

The hon. Treasurer counts upon an ordinary revenue of \$3,345,612 for next year. I consider his forecast of receipts just on the whole. But even granting that they are completely realized—and we must always beware of miscalculations—it seems to me inevitable, judging by appearances, that the Ministry may close the operations of 1888-89 with a deficit of from \$100,000 to \$150,000. We shall, in that case, only too surely return to the era of deficits to which the preceding Government had happily put an end.