

hand will be submitted to a vote of the House the next time the estimates come down. There is, therefore, no danger of a vote given now amounting to more than an authorisation to spend that which may have to be spent during the period covered by the estimates—say, to the 31st December next. The present estimates are drawn for the whole of the last six months, and for the whole of the current calendar year; for the financial year ending 1st July next, and for the six succeeding months, covering 18 months of service.

Hon. Mr. CARTIER—They cover the whole 18 months?

Hon. Mr. DUNKIN—Yes. My reason for making them so is this: there is no possibility—speaking in the political sense—that this Legislature can be brought together again until some period in the course of the first six months of the next financial year. I do not desire the votes of the House to have expired before the Legislature meets again. I do not want to have any unauthorised expenditure going on. [Cheers.] I ask the House, therefore, to vote what may have to be spent till the 31st December of this year. When it meets again, it will have the accounts made up to the 1st July next, and all subsidiary information as to what has been going on during the remainder of the period. These estimates are, of necessity, made up subject to a great deal of possible correction hereafter as to special funds, and provincial assets yet undivided, and particular revenue services, as to which we cannot speak with positive certainty. Morally speaking, we know well that certain matters of account will pretty assuredly fall to our share; and of course we shall have to do a great many things not yet clearly seen. In drawing up these estimates, I have acted on the presumption that certain revenues will come to us, and certain liabilities will have to be met by us; and I have put down everything I supposed we should really be called on to meet, and I have set down as actual matter of revenue, everything that I suppose will come into our hands. The estimates of expenditure and revenue I am about to submit are all of this character. They are drawn without reference to the questions that may come up in the settlement of our debt with the Dominion, and the arbitration with the Province of Ontario. They have little to do with the financial position of the Province; they deal only with what during these eighteen months are to be its cash transactions. I have sought to obtain a check, in the shape of legislative authority, upon all those disbursements which, I believe, will have to be made through my department; and I will tell the House the sources of revenue from which I believe I shall receive the money to meet them. I have told the House their cash transactions for the last six months; and I am now asking it to give me authority to carry on our direct money transactions until such time as, the arbitration completed, I can show them the state of their affairs. Of course, with estimates of this kind, it is possible, nay, very probable, there may be more of error than ordinarily. I have been under the necessity of preparing these estimates almost without the assistance of any person ever employed in preparing estimates before. To the best of our ability we have exerted ourselves to make them as accurate as possible; and thanks to the zeal, attention and ability of the gentlemen who prepared them, I think they will be found as correct as estimates usually are, and as correct as estimates prepared under the circumstances can possibly be made. [Cheers.] Estimates of this