

And further, as an illustration of the fact that this kind of revenue is easy of collection and of administration, I might add that in the case of this, our largest estate since the Act came into force, we agreed on the valuations, determined the interests of the different parties and adjusted the amount due the Province with but little difficulty and trifling expense, and were in actual receipt of the duties within five months of the date of the death of the deceased. The fact, then, that this will in a few years, if not immediately, prove to be our most important source of revenue—the Dominion subsidy and Crown Lands revenue, of course, excepted—warrants me in adding somewhat to what I have already said on previous occasions concerning it. I do not mean, of course, by way of justifying it, since we have long since passed that stage. It needs neither apology nor defence. On all sides it is at once admitted that no means of raising revenue more fair, desirable or justifiable has ever been devised.

This means of raising revenue long ante-dates all modern political economy. In addition to its many other virtues it has that of antiquity on its side.

It has been thoroughly tested in several countries of Europe; it is each year growing in popularity; it essentially embodies true democratic principles. England, France, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, and even Italy, Prussia and Russia have long availed themselves of it.

On this continent, the States of Pennsylvania, New York, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Ohio, California, West Virginia and Tennessee, enjoy considerable receipts from it.

FROM BUDGET SPEECH OF 1897.

SUCCESSION DUTIES.

FROM succession duties I estimated that we would receive \$200,000. We really received a considerably less amount, namely, \$152,000. We received \$150,754 in 1894. One estate in 1895 yielded \$134,000, so that the receipt of that year was altogether abnormal. We have received thus far in all since 1892 by way of succession duties \$648,000, and our Act has been in force only five years. The \$152,000 received last year was derived from 99 estates. Of these 99 estates 24 were from the County of York (including Toronto), 9 from the County of Wentworth and 6 from each of the Counties of Brant, Middlesex, Northumberland and Durham. In six important counties, not to speak of the newer districts, among them Haldimand, Halton, Norfolk, Peterborough, Prince Edward and Prescott and Russell, there was not a single estate during the year which paid duty. Altogether 3,000 wills were probated, and 1,421 letters of administration were granted during 1896. The number of dutiable

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