

coffee, sugar, and one or two other articles, for the use of Her Majesty's troops, including wine for officers' messes, are admitted free of duty. But it has been found that this provision has in its operation been attended with very considerable difficulty, and we have reason to believe, considerable loss to the revenue. It has been found impossible to so regulate the remission of duties on this class of goods as to limit it entirely to those for whose benefit it was designed, and there has been considerable loss to the revenue in consequence. It is now proposed to make a money payment based upon the quantities of these articles allowed the troops by Her Majesty's regulations at Aldershot and elsewhere. A similar plan is proposed in reference to the wines now allowed to come in free for the officers' mess, and they will receive in lieu thereof what is called the Regent's allowance, which is so much per company, and a fixed scale for officers serving on the Staff and in the Artillery and Engineers. It is anticipated that by these means Her Majesty's forces will have the full benefit of the liberality of Parliament, and at the same time the revenue will be protected. It is necessary to ask a vote or this amount, but the revenue derived from the duties collected on these articles will balance that payment. The amount will depend on the number of troops in the country, there being in the Dominion at present, according to official returns, about 15,563 men. The sum will be apportioned from time to time as the Governor, by Order in Council, may direct. These are the principal changes which are to be made in the tariff, and I think the House and the country will rejoice that they are not more numerous. (Hear.) I will now proceed to state the revenue which it is expected will be derived from Customs and Excise in the year 1868-9. I may mention that the importations this spring have been unusually light, not only as compared with last, but with some former years. Although this entails some little temporary embarrassment in the revenue, it is not a thing which I can say I regret. On the contrary, I think it exhibits a wholesome and sound state of affairs in the country, generally, and evinces prudence and care on the part of the mercantile community. I should have been sorry to have seen a large importation of goods this spring, with the large stocks which were on hand. (Hear.)

With regard to the revenue to be anticipated for the year 1868-69, the view to which we come is that it would not be safe to calculate on a much larger revenue than that of the present year. We estimate, therefore, that the Customs during the year 1868-69, will yield... \$9,100,000

We estimate at.....	3,514,000
The Miscellaneous revenue, deducting some receipts which may probably not come in during the year, we estimate at	2,500,000

This makes a total revenue, during the year 1868-69, of....	\$15,114,000
against a total estimated ordinary expenditure of.....	14,042,161

shewing an estimated surplus, for 1868-69, of revenue over expenditure, of.....	\$1,071,839
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