

that balance must be maintained by restricting our expenses and by levying the amount required to meet the needs of the Province.

During the past two sessions, not to go back any further, several amendments to our laws were proposed and adopted with the view of more equitably distributing the taxes and of increasing the revenues of the treasury. With the assistance given the Treasurer and the Government by the members of the House and thanks to suggestions always well received and frequently adopted our laws respecting taxes, especially on successions, insurance companies and banks, have been improved from the standpoint of revenue.

Taking into account the general prosperity, the increase of trade and of private fortunes, we consider that the revenues of the Province should increase in a marked manner. But, on the other hand, the development of the Province occasions fresh needs and the public services will entail additional and considerable expenditure.

The House will be pleased to observe with me that the operations of the fiscal year ended on the 30th June last, throw an encouraging light on our financial position, and I beg the honorable members who listen to me to be good enough to give me their attention for a few minutes while I submit figures to them which, though apparently dry, are nevertheless interesting to study.