

Department of Crown Lands. It is impossible from the accounts and statements presently before the House to estimate with exactitude the precise amount earned and properly attributable from this service to the year 1896-97, which was only received during 1897-98. But by a comparison of the receipts for the three years terminated respectively on the 30th June, 1896, 1897 and 1898, we can arrive at a fairly approximate estimate. The receipts from this Department for the year ended the 30th June, 1896 were \$1,045,310. For the year terminated on the 30th June, 1898, \$1,087,042, while for the year terminated on the 30th June, 1897, they are stated to have been only \$879,893. By certain returns also which were laid before this House during the last and the present session, we find that from the first July to the 31st December, 1897, that is, during the first six months following the commencement of the fiscal year, there was received from Lands, Forests and Fisheries, \$448,940, while for nearly the same period of time for the previous financial year the receipts were only \$194,339, and for the first six months of the present fiscal year the receipts have been \$515,727, from which should be deducted, in order to arrive at ordinary revenue, the proceeds of sales of timber limits and licenses, amounting to \$135,000, leaving a balance of \$390,000, as ordinary revenue.

It is impossible to come to any other conclusion from these figures than that during the first six months of the year which closed on the 30th June, 1898, an amount of upwards of \$200,000 was received from revenue earned prior to the 30th June, 1897, and properly attributable to that year. The revenues of the Province from this service of Crown Lands came from well defined sources and it is reasonable to expect and to hope that they will gradually increase as our products come into greater demand, but it is not contended that there was any cause or reason why the revenues should be less in 1897, than in the years which preceded and followed it, except the fact that the collection of them was deferred.

Apart from these tactics of the present administration there were expenditures during the fiscal year which closed on the 30th June, 1897, it would have been impossible for the Government of the day to have abstained from making, and which were not only not normal expenditures, but were in discharge of liabilities not of their own making, but left to them as a legacy by a preceding liberal Government.