

explanations that I shall be able to offer. However, I comply with the general custom, and, in the first place, I will call the attention of the House to the fact that we have now had an existence for two years and a-half. For that period, we have been an independent Province, having a Legislature of our own, and therefore we have had a two years and a-half experience in our finances. Previous to 1867, (the commencement of our separate existence,) this Province, along with the Province of Quebec, was said to be in a position of financial difficulty. No doubt, more or less, that statement was true, but from the financial arrangements resulting from Confederation, this Province, commencing its own individual existence on the 1st July, 1867, down to the present time, has had one unbroken course of prosperity. When we consider the fact that we had a new Government to start, new offices to establish, new machinery to put into operation, five different departments to organize; when we consider further the increased demand for expenditure which all this required, an expenditure which, having once occurred, would not occur again; when we consider the further fact, that after meeting these extraordinary charges, besides all the ordinary expenses of government and of the Province, having expended on capital account more than half a million of dollars; when we consider all this and that at the end of two and a half years, we have still a surplus of invested funds of nearly two and a half million dollars, I think I may venture to say that the Government has reason to challenge the approval of all parties, and the country to congratulate itself and feel proud of its financial position. I propose, Mr. Speaker, in the very few remarks which I shall have to make, to consider, in the first place, the position we occupied a year ago, when I had the honour of bringing down the estimates to this House. I will next compare the year's operations with the present state of affairs, and I will then proceed to consider the estimates for the ensuing year. Not a year ago, in referring to the transactions of 1868, I stated to the House that I thought the estimates for that year would be more than enough to meet the services of that year by \$145,010.61. The year closed, and instead of there remaining unexpended of the appropriations of 1868, \$145,010.61, there was \$177,197.29. When the estimates for the current year, 1869, were prepared, with the Receipts and Expenditures for the year 1868 before me, I clearly saw that, at the end of the year 1868, after making due allowance for the three months up to the 31st December, there would, notwithstanding that during that year we had invested \$850,000.00, be a considerable surplus with which to commence the year 1869, and I then stated, in bringing down the estimates, that, after providing for all the services mentioned in those estimates, with all other demands upon the Treasury, there would still remain, at the end of 1869, upwards of half a million surplus for investment. It was doubted at that time, but the fact turns out, that instead of there being half a million surplus, I have, during the year, invested in the bonds of the Dominion, \$705,675.73, and I shall have a cash balance, at the close of