

rienced in all countries that have traded beyond their means. But it is with pleasure that, on the other hand, I call the attention of the House to the statement of exports. The exports for the previous year were \$42,481,151, against \$51,984,375 during the current year, which shews an excess over the previous year of no less than \$9,503,224, or upwards of one million of dollars greater than the amount by which our imports this year have exceeded those of the previous year. (Hear, hear.) Consequently, though our import trade has been large, we find, in reality, that the export trade of the country has more than met it, and that the people of this country have been justified in going to foreign countries and getting from thence the goods they have required for consumption, because they have really exported to those countries a larger amount than they have imported from them—and we need not therefore anticipate that the results of the trade of last year will be in any way embarrassing to us in the future. If the same prudence characterises the people of Canada in the future as in the past—if we import no more than we have the ability to pay for—we shall not be exposed to those convulsions of trade which are now the source of misery and anxiety in many countries. In further reference to our commerce, I cannot help pointing out that the aggregate trade of the country has risen in one year from \$87,101,620 to no less than \$105,018,420—a difference of \$17,916,800 in the volume of trade which the people of this country have carried on with foreign countries—which exceeds, by more than \$10,000,000, the volume of trade in any previous year in the history of this country—and marks an advance in the prosperity and prospects of the country which may well form a subject of congratulation to this Committee and the people of this Province. (Cheers.) I do not think, in view of the number of subjects which I intend to bring as briefly as possible before the attention of the Committee, that I should be warranted in dwelling at any length on those Statements which are in the hands of hon. members. They will, to a great extent, explain themselves, and if any points arise requiring further explanation, there will be ample opportunity in Committee of Supply to give any information that may be desired. I think, therefore, I may be permitted at once to turn to what is the condition of the country now—the estimates which have been framed for the public service for the coming year, and the means by which the Government trusts that Parliament will make provision for that service. I have caused to be distributed a Summary Estimate of the Expenditure of the country for next year—the year commencing 1st July. By reference to that statement, it will appear that the total estimated expenditure of the country—excluding \$2,570,500 of public debt which matures during the year, and on which I shall have occasion to offer some observations hereafter—is put down by the officers of the Government at \$12,376,150. With regard to the items of that expenditure, I may be permitted to remark that many of them are increased from the same causes which have necessitated an increased estimate for the Militia