

CANADA

BUDGET SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

HON. WILLIAM S. FIELDING, M.P.

MINISTER OF FINANCE

IN THE

House of Commons, at Ottawa, Tuesday, 5th April, 1898

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House resolve itself into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

He said: I rise, Mr. Speaker, in accordance with notice, to make the motion which you have put from the Chair, and before concluding my remarks I shall place upon the Table of the House a series of resolutions to which it is my desire to invite the attention of the House.

A little less than one year ago, under circumstances which perhaps marked the occasion as one of some importance in the history of Canada, I had the honour to deliver in this House my first Budget speech.

In rising to-day to perform a similar duty, I am sure that I have ample grounds on which to congratulate the House on the condition of the country, and on the results of the policy of the Government which it was my privilege to announce to the House in April last. Canada has had an eventful year, a year marked by great political advancement, material progress and steadily increasing prosperity.

FISCAL YEAR 1896-97.

Following the usual practice in Budget speeches, I shall first ask the attention of the House to a brief review of the operations of

the financial year 1896-97, which ended on the 30th of June last, the accounts of which have been in the possession of the House for some time past. The revenue for that year yielded \$37,829,778, as against \$36,618,590 for the year 1895-96, or an increase of \$1,211,187. The total expenditure on Consolidated Fund reached \$38,349,759, as against an expenditure of \$36,949,142 in 1895-96, or an increase of \$1,400,617. The outcome of 1896-97 left us with a deficit of \$519,981, as against a deficit on the previous year of \$330,551. That, in brief, is the result of the year's operations on account of Consolidated Fund.

Following the usual custom, I give the details of the revenue, as compared with the previous year:

	1896-97.	1895-96.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Customs...	19,478,247	19,833,279		355,032
Excise...	9,170,378	7,926,005	1,244,372	
Miscellaneous...	9,181,152	8,859,305	321,846	
	37,829,778	36,618,590	1,566,219	355,032
			1,211,187	

It will be noticed that there was a slight decrease in the customs revenue, which can be attributed to the restrictive effect on the imports of the anticipated changes of the