

volume of business, that the deficit caused by reason of this reduction, has almost disappeared. The revenue for the year ending the 31st of March 1930, will show an increase of something between a million and a quarter and a million and a half over the previous year.

In the Department of Agriculture, following the policy of grading and standardizing inaugurated by the present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell), the consumption of our various food products has substantially increased. This is particularly true of butter, cheese, milk and eggs. As a result of this standardizing, Canadian cheese has steadily advanced on the British market over that of New Zealand ever since 1925. In 1925 this premium stood at .52 cents per pound; in 1929, this premium stood at 2.01 cents per pound.

In the Health of Animals branch of the Department of Agriculture, during the past eight years, practically 1,400,000 head of cattle have been tested for bovine tuberculosis, and on the basis of the estimated number of cattle in Canada in 1927, nearly one sixth of the total have already been tested for this disease. While this work is done primarily by the Department of Agriculture in the interests of live stock, it is proving an important aid in restricting the spread of human tuberculosis by eliminating to a large extent the bovine source of contagion through the medium of milk supply.

These are but a few of the many enterprises which could be mentioned and in which appreciable progress is being maintained under the able administration of the Minister of Agriculture.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that it is a matter of great satisfaction to the women of Canada that the Privy Council have declared that women are "persons" and are, as such, eligible to sit in the Senate.

When the British North America Act was framed, there was no precedent to guide its authors and it was not contemplated at that time that women would ever possess the privilege of franchise. The fathers of confederation could scarcely anticipate that women would ever seek to have their status clearly defined. It was urged by the women of this country at the hearing before the Supreme Court that the act should be interpreted in the light of present realities rather than from the point of view of sixty years ago. The women of Canada have now succeeded in sustaining this viewpoint.

A new conception of women's contribution to the state exists to-day and though women's primary responsibility still attaches to the

[Mr. Gray.]

home, it may not in these days of new opportunities and new responsibilities end there. They have clearly demonstrated their capacity in the larger fields of life. I believe that women's influence in the political life of the nation will contribute materially to the progress and happiness of the people, and that the presence of women in the Senate will be reflected in the national life of Canada. Just as the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) has brought honour to the women of this country by her presence in this chamber so will the Hon. Mrs. Wilson grace the Senate to which she has been appointed. We join in congratulating her on her appointment and in commending the cabinet on the wisdom of their choice. The women of Canada will not soon forget that the Liberal party has been true to its traditions in that it is ever receptive of new ideas, new movements, and is always prepared to keep abreast of the times.

The cessation of the hostilities of the great war left Canada with many problems to face, but perhaps the greatest of these, because it was one that could not be adequately measured in dollars and cents, was that of assisting the soldier, who had returned suffering from wounds or disease contracted in the war.

Steps were immediately taken to look after the needs of these men and upon the government of the dominion devolved the duty of dealing with pensions. Machinery had to be created and put in motion, but this machinery could function only insofar as parliament authorized it so to do. As the years went by new problems arose and the scope of legislation has from time to time been enlarged. In spite of this advance, in spite of the fact that this government has always proven its sympathy with the needs of returned men, it has been found that the necessities still press upon us. For this reason the government plans to bring down at this session legislation making more adequate provision for these veterans.

What has brought about this need for further legislation after eleven years? The answer to that question can be found if we look about us and see the daily evidence, not only of the man who came back wounded or crippled, but also the war-worn man, the burnt-out soldier shall we call him, who went through perhaps months of service and was discharged as A-1 either because he appeared to all intents physically fit and was therefore discharged A-1, or because he knew he was not really fit, but after all those months was prepared to declare anything on his final medical board, in order to be returned to his home and loved ones. Of