

## SOME BAD CALCULATION.

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### Ministers Could Not Tell What They Would Collect or What They Would Spend.

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But let us consider what would have happened if the Government had received only the revenue it expected to receive at the beginning of the year.

Take the last year as an example.

The Government estimated that the revenue of last year

would be ..... \$5,904,534.71

It was going to spend only ..... 5,707,991.01

and therefore have a surplus of ..... \$196,543.70

As a matter of fact it spent \$6,424,900.04, that is \$716,909.03 more than it said it would spend.

Still, after spending nearly three-fourths of a million of dollars more than it said it would it wants credit for the surplus because the revenue which it didn't expect to receive happened to come into the treasury and make it possible for them to have more than met their expenditure.

But suppose the revenue had only been what the

Government estimated, viz,..... \$5,904,534.71

and the expenditure what it was, viz,..... 6,126,834.95

What would have been the result?

The Government would have had a deficit of..... \$520,365.23

Here then is a Government which paid out in one year \$716,909.03 more to run the Province than it said it would, and wants to be called a business Government because the revenue happened to be big enough that year to pay it.

As already pointed out it was through no act of the Government that the revenue was greater than was anticipated and that there was not a deficit of \$520,365.23, as there would have been if the revenue had been only what the Government itself at the beginning of the year estimated it would be.

But, while the Government had nothing to do with the increased revenue, it must be remembered that it was through the acts of the Government that this \$716,909.03 was spent more than the Government promised to spend at the beginning of the year.