

THIRD SESSION—EIGHT PARLIAMENT.

BRIEFING

OF

HON. W. S. FIELDING, M. P.  
ON THE BUDGET.

OTTAWA, 5TH APRIL, 1898.

SUPPLY—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 to move, Mr. Speaker, in accordance with motion, 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 to 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 March last. Canada has had an eventful year, a year marked by great political advancement, material progress and steadily increasing prosperity.

Following the usual practice in Budget speeches, I shall first call the attention of the House to a brief review of the conditions of the country. I do not propose to go into details of your budgetary accounts, of which

total Fund required \$38,849,769, an anticipated expenditure of \$39,049,142 in 1896-97, or an excess of \$1,400,317. The deficit of 1895-96 will be wiped off entirely by the amount of \$1,400,317. That, so 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...	\$ 19,678,247	\$ 19,838,278	\$ 160,031	\$ 160,031
Excise...	\$ 170,378	7,286,000	1,244,372	7,286,000
Miscell...	\$ 1,181,152	\$ 1,569,200	\$ 321,548	\$ 321,548
	31,030,775	36,683,500	1,554,727	5,652,727

It will be noticed that there is a decrease in the customs due to a reduction in the imports of the anticipated fiscal deficit of \$1,400,317. The decrease in the excise is due to a reduction in the amount of tobacco imported, which is now \$170,378, as compared with \$1,569,200 in 1895-96. The increase in the miscellaneous

is due to an increase in the amount of salt imported, which is now \$1,181,152, as compared with \$1,569,200 in 1895-96.