

was felt that, if we were blessed with the harvest then looked forward to, the people of this country would be much more able to consume imported goods than they were during the year then past. I confess it was not in my expectation that the amount would be anything like what it has turned out to be. And I do not think we would be justified in assuming that the normal condition of the country is such as would permit a consumption of that amount every year. As regards the increase of the Exeise, I may remark that I estimated a distillation of 3,250,000 gallons of proof spirits, whereas we have received duty on 4,030,000 gallons—a very much larger quantity than was expected. The receipts from beer and tobacco do not vary much from the estimate. The great difference in the revenue has arisen from the increased consumption of imported goods, and the increased distillation of spirits. With regard to the increased expenditure, to which I have already partially adverted, it was estimated that the expenditure for Militia purposes would have been covered by the sum of \$500,000. But the accounts shew that before the close of the year it is expected that no less than \$1,638,868 will have been expended under that head. And I need not point out to the Committee that, had that expenditure come upon the country under circumstances less favorable than those which actually have occurred, it would have caused very great inconvenience indeed. With regard therefore to the accounts of the past year, I am happy to be able on this occasion to make this statement, that all the engagements of the country, both those which were contemplated by Parliament last year, and those unexpected then and thrown upon us since, have been met by the ordinary revenue of the country, and that we have still been able to carry forward a considerable sum to the service of the following year. (Cheers.) As regards the trade of the country, the Statements which have been distributed to the members of this House, are, I think, of a character to give satisfaction to every one. Comparing the actual trade of 1864-5 with that of 1865-6, as established by the Custom-house returns for the eleven months beginning July 1st and ending May 30th, we find that the imports in the eleven months of the previous year were, in value, \$40,955,509, against, during the current year, \$49,034,045, and that for the whole twelve months, making an estimate for the results of the last month of the present year, the imports of last year were \$44,620,469, against \$53,034,045 during the year to close on the 30th instant. Consequently there has been an excess of imports, as compared with the previous year, of no less than \$8,413,576. Now, Mr. Chairman, had this increase of imports not been attended with an increase of exports, instead of its being a subject of congratulation, it might possibly have been a subject of considerable apprehension. In that case we should have concluded that there had been an excessive importation of goods, that it had gone much beyond what a provident course of action would have dictated, and that, consequently, we might anticipate very shortly in the future the same sort of financial revulsion which has been expe-