

last six months of the present year to realise a sum equal to that received during the first six months, \$7,250,000. I may also state, from the returns made up every ten days, that we received during January and February and the first five days of this month, \$450,000 more than we received during the same period in 1878. This, Sir, goes to show very clearly that we have consumed the goods that were brought in last year, and that we shall, during the balance of this fiscal year, have increased revenues to an amount sufficient to meet the sum estimated by the Government. The estimate we now make for Excise, based upon experience to the present time, is \$4,500,000, to which is to be added \$600,000 that was received in last year, but which properly belongs to this, and we have \$5,100,000. This is not as large as the amount estimated this day twelve months. I recollect perfectly well that hon. gentlemen opposite took exception to my estimate, that we would receive from the additional 10c. per gallon on spirits \$100,000. That is the only item in the revenue that shows a falling-off down to the present time. It may be that the hon. gentleman was correct as to the causes which have led to that reduction, but I am disposed to take a different view, and have arrived at the conclusion, Sir, that it is caused by a decreased consumption of spirits, whether it may be from the increased duty, or from the fact that the habits of the people have changed with reference to the use of this article; but, under any circumstances, I believe that it will be considered by a very large proportion of the people that, if, by an increase of the duty, the consumption has been diminished, the change was justified; this is the item of all others in which they would desire to see a reduction, and one the falling off in which will not cause much regret. It was estimated that the Post Office would yield \$1,200,000, and we entertain that opinion still. In the Public Works, it will be found that we estimate an increase of \$50,000 over the estimate of a year ago. That arises from the fact of our taking possession of the Pembina branch of the Pacific Railway. It will be found from the Estimates now before the House, that

we have asked Parliament for \$50,000 for the management of that road. But, while we have increased the expenditure to that extent, our increased revenue will be in proportion. With reference to bill stamps, our estimate is \$200,000. On interest on investments it will be found that there is an increase arising in this way. From the loan which was obtained in England last year, and from the moneys which were subsequently obtained from 5 per cents of the Dominion of Canada, we had more money than was required for the current year, and held over at the present moment for the payment of liabilities due on the 1st of July next, and bearing interest; and, therefore, the interest we are receiving on that money, so held, will probably amount to \$200,000—though I have stated the amount at only \$150,000—over and above what was estimated. So that while the interest account on the debit side has increased, we have also an additional sum to place to the credit side of the account. Of all other revenues, it was estimated that they would amount to \$700,000, and, from looking at the returns of last year and the returns so far in the present year, I think it is very probable that that item will not exceed \$600,000, making the estimated receipts for the current year \$24,450,000, against a previous estimate of \$24,200,000. We now come to the estimated expenditure. It was stated last year that it would reach \$23,869,262. The Supplementary Estimates show that, after deducting the vote for items belonging to last year, after deducting the items chargeable to capital, the Supplementary Estimates for the current year, chargeable to income, amount to \$858,922. They are made up in part by \$100,000 for the relief of the sufferers in Ireland; \$201,000 for the relief of the Indians, who were in a starving condition; \$97,500 expenditure on public buildings in St. John more than was voted by the House; \$50,000 for the running expenses of the Pacific Railway; \$42,000 for repairs to canals and other items, making in all \$858,922. Then, Sir, we come to the under-estimates in interest. I have to call attention to the fact that the probabilities are that the interest account of this year will exceed the estimate by \$660,000. This increase was caused in this