

April 11, 1871

coming down with supplementary estimates which must be placed against the estimated revenue, whereas a very considerable portion of those estimates were chargeable against capital. Every Government considered that there were many Public Works which could not be charged against revenue. For instance, no one could imagine it possible that the "Intercolonial" or the "Pacific" could be constructed out of revenue, or that the Canal improvements could be effected out of revenue. If the Legislature of the country were not prepared to incur debt with a view to making great public improvements, the results of which would be vastly to increase the income, they must abandon the idea of making the improvements at all, because, of course, it was simply impossible that such improvements could be made out of income. Referring to the items themselves, one was for the very important work of raising the banks of the Welland Canal, with a view to obtaining a much greater depth of water, another was towards the enlargement of the Grenville Canal Locks, and another towards improving the channel of the river St. Lawrence, between Kingston and Montreal. He would not now enter into the merits of these particular items, but it was a gross misrepresentation to say that the Government ever contemplated making these improvements out of the revenue of the year. It had been stated that the result of these supplementary estimates would be that there would be a surplus of expenditure over income of something like one million dollars, but he would show how very different would be the actual result. He would take the supplementary estimates and the income for the current and the ensuing year. The supplementary estimates for 1871 amounted to \$1,099,263.71 less \$250,000, for the survey of the Pacific Railway, not out of income, reducing the amount chargeable to income to \$849,263.71. For the year 1872 the amount was \$1,134,350, of which \$500,000 was chargeable to capital, leaving \$634,350, as the amount chargeable against income, making a total amount so chargeable of \$1,483,613.71.

He had said in his statement of March last that there was an estimated surplus of \$1,892,627, for the current year, and he could now state that, after two months more experience, that surplus would be increased by half a million of dollars, making an aggregate surplus for the current year of \$2,392,627, so that with the surplus of \$523,900, for the year 1872, the total surplus would be \$2,916,527,—and the aggregate of the supplementary estimates being \$1,483,613.71, the total surplus amounted to \$1,432,913.29. This was not all. There would be an amount of some \$87,000 to be received on an offer which had been received for the purchase of the site of the present post office at Montreal, and in addition the Government expected to receive \$125,000 from the Imperial Government on account of the expenses of the North West, the entire cost having been charged in the estimates. These two amounts, say \$200,000, made a surplus of over \$1,600,000 for the two years.

He admitted that the estimates were unusually high, but he would say most distinctly that there was not one item that could not be justified as a necessary and desirable question in the interests of the country. The newspaper to which he had referred had taken exception to the item for the Montreal Post Office, but it was well known that the Post Office had been for years back most

discreditable, and the reason the vote was not asked at first was that negotiations were still going on, and the Government did not expect to obtain a proper site this year, but now, although the matter was not definitely concluded, he believed they would succeed in getting the very best site in the city. Then there was the amount for the post offices at Toronto, Quebec and London. This was only a revote and had merely been omitted from the first estimates in error. Then there was an amount of \$50,000 for the Census in the North West and British Columbia, which had not been included in the original estimates. Another item had been criticized, that for clearing away the snow from the Public Buildings. This was merely caused by a change of mode of payment, the matter being now under the control of the Public Works Department, and the service was now being performed much more economically than formerly. He would not speak of the votes for light houses or harbors, for these could all be explained at the proper time, nor would he say much about the British Columbia vote, which slightly exceeded the amount which it had been supposed would be required. Of course the Government could not make a very accurate estimate, but they now asked what they thought would be required.

There were two items however which had been particularly mentioned in the newspaper criticism he had referred to, namely: cost and damages awarded by juries in two customs cases. He detailed the circumstances under which the cases had arisen, and said that they being exactly similar, it was agreed that one should be brought before the Courts, and the decision given should govern both. This had been done and the decision given against the Government, and the Government had now to ask authority to pay the amounts, and so far from the claimants being satisfied, he knew they were deeply dissatisfied because they could not obtain interest on the amounts they had claimed. Then as to the Penitentiary near Montreal, this was believed to be a very necessary undertaking. He would state without hesitation that no Government had ever been more scrupulous than the present in charging against income everything that could be legitimately so charged. As to the amount for the Halifax Buildings he hoped the matter would be arranged and the money not expended, but he considered that as interest would have been received for the money, it would have been a fair charge against capital.

He might say that the income of the year was well kept up, as in the first ten days of the present month about \$11,000 had been received more than was received last year, notwithstanding the repeal of the coal duty and the 5 per cent duties, and whatever opinion therefore might be formed with regard to particular items he could state with perfect confidence that there was no danger of any financial embarrassment, and that there was ample revenue to meet all the estimates. Before taking his seat he desired to refer to a statement which had been made on a former occasion that an official of the Government had interfered in election matters. If he remembered aright, it had been alleged that that official had gone to the County of Essex and had stated that Hon. Sir George-É. Cartier desired the return of one candidate and the rejection of the other. He had enquired into the matter, and he was able to state first of all that it was absolutely incorrect to say that that officer was authorised by Hon. Sir George-É. Cartier to say anything at all, secondly that he