

The Estimated Expenditure for the Current Year.

Last year the estimated expenditure was roughly 11 millions and the actual expenditure 17 millions. This year the estimated expenditure is roughly placed at 15 millions. Judging by past experience this would mean an actual expenditure of 21 millions, for what, we do not know, for the Government does not itself know. The object of the estimates is to indicate to the people how their money is spent. The object of the Government seems to be to spend the money according to its own will without taking the people into its confidence as to how the money is expended until after the expenditure is made.

A comparison between expenditure in the last year of the Liberal regime and the current year shows an increase that is absolutely appalling. The total expenditure for the year 1904, when the Liberals were in power, as shown by the Public Accounts was \$5,267,453; the total expenditure for the year 1918, with the present Government in power, was \$17,460,404.

Statutory Expenditure.

The statutory expenditure in 1918 was \$14,442,203.74; it will almost certainly exceed this amount for the present year. If we add to the estimated ordinary expenditure of \$15,000,000 a further sum of \$6,000,000 by which the estimates were exceeded last year, and at the same time include a like amount for 1919 for statutory expenditure as was paid out in 1918, the Province will face this year the enormous expenditure of \$21,000,000 ordinary expenditure and \$14,000,000 at least statutory expenditure, or \$35,000,000!

Expenditure per Head of the Population.

At the end of the first financial year in 1867 the ordinary payments amounted to only \$554,623.70. In 1871 they had risen to \$1,629,250.22; but this represented a payment of only \$1.00 per head of the population according to the Dominion census of that year. If we take the census statistics of 1901—toward the end of the Liberal regime—and compare with the expenditure, we find that the payment per head was only \$1.63 upon an expenditure of \$3,558,635.78. Upon the 1911 statistics, with the Conservatives in power, the payment had risen to nearly \$3.00 per head and the expenditure had amounted to \$7,445,617.64; Last year (1918), with an expenditure of \$17,460,404.15, allowing for an item of \$2,054,212 in connection with the war and an item of \$4,277,934 for public buildings—which were not included in ordinary expenditure in the earlier accounts—bringing