

West \$821,820. Government grant received by the Insurance Companies' Bill \$1,837,589. The whole of the Imperial Loan was invested and in deposit in Banks bearing interest, ready for use as required. The estimate last year for Civil Government was \$713,316, but the actual expenditure had only been \$620,348. There had been an increase in the Civil Service. It was impossible in a country whose business was every year largely increasing that this should not be the case. The largest increase had been in the Post Office Department. There had also been an increase in the Agricultural Department, but the increase in both these departments would not be found too much for the increased business. He called attention to the fact that Canada had last year risen in regard to business with the mother country from No. 11 to No. 8. The exports of Canada exceeded those of Russia, China, Brazil and Turkey, all countries having a large trade. No country received so large an amount of goods per head from Great Britain as Canada, so that this country, in proportion to its population, carried on the greatest commerce with Great Britain of any in the world. In the Home District, Ontario, in thirty years the value of assessed property had risen from one million and a quarter to sixty-nine millions. It must be remembered with regard to increase of debt, that where there was apparent increase, there was also increase of assets. The receipts for the year had amounted to \$15,512,225, an excess over the estimates of \$862,225. The expenditure had been larger than was anticipated, leaving a surplus of \$209,656, applied to the Sinking Fund. With regard to the year 1870-71, there was an excess over the estimates for Customs of \$950,000. There would also be an increase in the Excise amounting to \$775,000. There would be an expected revenue of \$17,360,000 from all sources with a total increase or surplus of \$1,619,000. The estimated expenditure was about \$15,000,000 including an item of \$311,616 expected loss on silver. For the year ending 30th June, 1872, the aggregate estimate was \$25,682,372, of this \$7,846,910 was for public works chargeable to capital; there was also \$1,040,000 for redemption of debt, and \$400,000 for N. W. Territory expenses, leaving the actual estimated expenditure at \$16,394,808. In view of the expected surplus, the Government proposed to take off the additional 5 per cent imposed on all articles last session, and to ask Parliament to allow the Governor in Council to transfer from time to time to the free list any material used in Canadian manufactures, and also any machinery to be used in such, that cannot be manufactured in Canada. Sir A. T. Galt expressed his satisfaction at the statement of the Finance Minister and the flourishing condition of the country. The trade of the country had increased in 4 years from 129½ to 146 millions. With a redundant revenue, abundant means, and low taxation, nothing but ordinary prudence and economy was necessary to insure future progress. He had hoped some further steps would have been taken to further trade with the West Indies, still that trade had increased 23¼ per cent during the past year. He deprecated the tendency which he saw evinced to involve the country in a large expenditure for public works, which for years would be unproductive, and sink the capital of the country. He regretted the encouragement given to a spirit of railway excitement by the Quebec

and Ontario Governments. There were in the estimates no less than \$2,000,000 for Public Works independent of the Intercolonial Railway. Hon. Mr. Tilley said this expenditure was for the purpose of increasing facilities in getting products to market, and after all had been paid for, there would still be a surplus of \$1,000,000. The increased expenditure was for the Census, Harbours and Public Buildings, Fisheries Protection, Militia, &c. The charge of extravagance in the Civil Service was most unfounded. Mr. Cartwright thought present prosperity was no reason for plunging into heavy liabilities and said a large part of future surpluses would be absorbed by interest on the Intercolonial Railway. Sir Geo. Cartier said, the Government did not ask to borrow money for improvements, they only asked leave to use the money they had. Sir A. Galt insisted the expenditure had largely increased for the Civil Government, and he wished to warn the Government and country in time. Sir F. Hincks insisted there had been no undue extravagance. The House went into committee of Ways and Means and the first resolution for the abolition of the 5 per cent duty was carried.

March 13th—COMMONS—The Arbitration question was resumed. After a long debate, Sir Geo. Cartier's amendment was carried by a large majority. Sir Francis Hincks proposed resolutions to amend the law respecting Banks and Banking. The object was to introduce a general Act applicable to all the Banks whose charters expire at the end of the session, so as to prevent the necessity of separate charters. The House went into committee on the Election Bill, Mr. Dorion proposed an amendment that the Returning Officer shall not have the right to question the validity of the voters' lists. Messrs. Cameron, Pelletier, Mills, and Masson supported the amendment. Sir Geo. Cartier explained that by the Act of 1860 difficulties of this kind were remedied, and returning officers had no arbitrary power of the kind alleged.

March 14th—SENATE—The Census Bill was read a second time. The Montreal Life Assurance Bill was read and referred to Committee on Private Bills.

COMMONS—The House went into Committee on Sir F. Hincks Banking resolutions. The object of these was simply to affirm the general principles of the Bill before introduced. The Report of the Committee of the Whole on the Fenian indemnification expenditure was received and a Bill introduced. The House went into Committee on the Election Bill. Mr. Dorion moved in amendment that the Returning Officers shall not have the right to question the validity of the electors' list; Sir Geo. Cartier opposed the amendment, but said he would propose a way to meet the views of the mover, and the Bill was passed through Committee.

March 15, SENATE—The Marine and Fisheries report was presented. North Shore Railway Bridges Bill read a second time, and the Census amendment Bill passed through Committee.

COMMONS—Sir F. Hincks introduced the Savings Bank Bill, and the reception of the report of Committee of Ways and Means. The repeal of 5 per cent. duties was adopted. On the question of the transfer by Government of certain articles to free list. Hon. Mr. Holton moved in amendment, that it is inexpedient to clothe the Executive with