

which are set forth in the public accounts, the prosperity of the country was such and the buoyancy of the revenue was such that we were able to close the year's transactions with a balance to our credit of nearly \$200,000. We have been told over and over again that we were exceeding our income, that all sorts of calamities would overtake us unless we restrained our hand. It is most difficult to restrain an expanding and growing country. It is most difficult to meet the necessities of a growing country without an increased expenditure. This is true of the Government at Ottawa, and was always true of that Government; it is true of the Government of Great Britain; it is true of the Government of the United States; it is true of all municipal government in this country.

Met All Calls.

And any man who occupies the Treasury benches, if he has regard to the wants of the people, will have some calls to be met sometimes of an extraordinary character, and even of a normal character, which will necessitate increased expenditure. Granting this, however, as most of the hon. gentlemen will see themselves, we are able to meet those charges and still have a surplus of nearly \$200,000. I was unable last year to give as close attention to the financial statement as I would have liked; perhaps not able to do it this year, either. Still, I want to call the attention of the hon. gentlemen opposite to the estimated receipts, and the accuracy with which we anticipated the revenues of the country. Our estimated receipts, according to the statement last year, were \$4,183,487, and our actual receipts were \$4,192,940, or an excess of \$9,452 over our estimates. So that it will be seen from this statement that the Treasury Department gave considerable care to the preparation of estimates laid upon the table last year. The estimated expenditure last year was \$3,848,151, and the actual expenditure \$3,748,159, or less by \$99,991. We kept within the estimates by nearly a hundred thousand. With regard to receipts and expenditures for the present year, the table will show what our intentions are. We estimate the receipts for the year at \$3,795,872, and we estimate the expenditure so far at \$3,782,406. We are keeping within our estimates, so far as the demands upon the treasury have gone, by \$13,000. Of course, there will be supplementary estimates later, which will probably call for that margin, and maybe for more, although I may say to the hon. gentlemen that the supplementaries will be smaller than last year, when they were \$106,060.

Supplementaries Will be Small.

I hope they will not exceed much more than half that, if they do reach half that amount. In our expenditures for last year, besides the ordinary calls upon the treasury, a considerable amount was paid to meet railway liabilities, amounting to \$249,574.

Continuing, the Premier compared in some detail the estimates for the current year with those of the previous year, commencing with the figures relating to civil government. On this

item the Government asked \$280,870, as compared with \$269,590. This seeming increase was due rather to a transfer of accounts relating to good roads from miscellaneous to civil government account, the transfer of other small accounts, and some small increases in salary. In legislation there was a small decrease, the figures being \$132,700, as compared with \$133,600 previously, and the saving, it was hoped, would be largely in the cost of printing. For the administration of justice, \$454,699.72 was asked, an increase of \$2,299.75, due to the opening up of new territories, the necessity of appointing officers to enforce the law there, and the increase of crime proportionate to the increase of population.

Increased Education Grant.

An increased grant of about \$20,000 was asked for education, due chiefly to larger grants for district schools; an increase of \$10,000 for technical education, and an increase for the School of Practical Science. For public institutions maintenance an increase of nearly \$9,000 was asked, the total estimate being \$839,256, the increase for the greater part being due to the establishment of an asylum for senile patients at Cobourg. The amount asked for agricultural purposes was \$202,842, a decrease of about \$10,000. For hospitals and charities \$192,531.83 was asked, as against \$185,207.85. For maintenance and repairs \$86,945, a decrease of \$3,000, was asked, and for public buildings the estimate was \$240,623, an increase of \$40,000, which included a proposed grant of \$33,109 for enlarging the Agricultural College at Guelph to meet the growing requirements of the farming community. For public works \$48,600 was asked, the total amount voted for 1900 having been \$59,432.71. In the matter of colonization roads there was a slight reduction, and the amount asked was \$119,325, the actual expenditure last year having been \$113,926.10. The Government had hoped to reduce the amount more than had been done, but had not yet reached the point where that could be undertaken to a serious extent. It was imperative that roads should be opened in new districts, but in time to come the extension of railway lines might obviate to a great extent the grants for colonization roads.

The estimates on charges on Crown lands were \$150,075; this year they were increased to \$157,575. In refunds they had reduced the estimates from \$103,252 last year to \$23,422 this year. The reduction was accounted for by the fact that they had a charge of over \$60,000 last year on account of mortgages held by the university which the Province had endorsed and which have been paid off and disposed of. Under miscellaneous the charge last year was \$253,902; this year it was \$223,069, or a falling off of \$30,000.

Increased Surplus.

Mr. Ross then briefly considered the assets and liabilities of the Province, which he referred to as a vexed question, which caused a great deal of debate in the House and no end of worry in the various constituencies of the Pro-