

progress of our commercial and social surroundings and of our higher civilisation. Thus the excessive expenditure disappears, and I feel sure that members will not complain when the various votes comes to be considered by them.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE of the CONSOLIDATED FUND (Revenue Account) for 1901-2, compared with Actual Expenditure of 1900-1.

					Estimate for 1901-2.	Actual of 1900-1.	Differences.	
							Increase.	Decrease.
REVENUE ACCOUNT.					£	£	£	£
Civil List	..	..	..	..	33,100	29,173	3,927	..
Interest and Sinking Fund	..	..	..	..	1,819,225	1,745,616	73,609	..
Under special Acts	..	..	..	..	582,155	560,434	21,721	..
					2,434,480	2,335,223	99,257	..
Annual Appropriations,—								
Legislative Departments	..	..	..	..	19,887	25,265	..	5,378
Colonial Secretary's Department	..	..	..	..	185,438	116,138	69,300	..
Colonial Treasurer's Department	..	..	..	..	44,424	39,148	5,276	..
Justice Department	..	..	..	..	129,961	126,436	3,525	..
Postal and Telegraph Department	..	..	..	..	441,214	416,364	24,850	..
Customs and Marine Department	..	..	..	..	89,071	87,038	2,033	..
Stamps and Deeds Department	..	..	..	..	26,879	26,256	623	..
Education Department	..	..	..	..	512,519	445,294	67,225	..
Lunacy and Charitable Department	..	..	..	..	69,170	63,242	5,928	..
Department of Labour	..	..	..	..	7,790	7,978	..	188
Mines Department	..	..	..	..	23,321	17,488	5,833	..
Department of Agriculture	..	..	..	..	91,881	74,876	17,005	..
Working Railways Department	..	..	..	..	1,152,000	1,144,832	7,168	..
Public and School Buildings and Domains	..	..	..	..	46,750	46,851	..	101
Defence Department	..	..	..	..	213,250	206,565	6,685	..
Police Department	..	..	..	..	122,258	117,522	4,736	..
Lands and Survey Department	..	..	..	..	127,130	133,557	..	6,427
Valuation Department	..	..	..	..	25,591	23,580	2,011	..
Rates on Crown lands	..	..	..	..	800	531	269	..
					3,329,334	3,118,961	222,467	12,094
Services not provided for	..	..	..	..	..	25,519	..	25,519
							321,724 37,613	37,613
Total					5,763,814	5,479,703	284,111	

REVENUE.

It is now necessary to review the estimates of revenue, which I have set down at £5,839,000, together with £57,000 receipts to be derived from sale of debentures for Sinking Fund accretions. These two sums total to £5,896,000. Last year the actual receipts amounted to £5,905,506, showing that there is an estimated falling-off of revenue to the amount of £9,506 during this current year. I have no desire to be pessimistic, but one cannot be too cautious while framing the estimates for the year. It is only necessary to look around to see the solid evidence of prosperity which meets the eye; at the same time I have to bear in mind that extraordinary events took place during the last financial year—events which undoubtedly had their effect in augmenting our revenue—events which are not likely to occur again, neither will others of a kindred character take their place: I allude to the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. The visit of their Royal Highnesses must have caused a vast outlay, spread over the whole community, and much of the expenditure has found its way to the Treasury coffers in the way of duties. On the other hand, we must not lose sight of the effect of the remissions which were made in the tariff in August last. Had it not been for the increased consumption of dutiable goods which has been noticeable for some years past, and for the extraordinary expenditure I have just referred to connected with the Royal visit, there would have been a loss of revenue to the extent of £130,000, and I must still reckon for a loss of Customs revenue in connection with the reduction of duty to the extent of at least £100,000 for the current year. Some portion of this loss will, however, be made good by the increased consumption of articles not affected by the tariff alterations; so I have set down