

first half of the Dominion, 97,98 grant. Calculating at the rate of this year's grant, they would get for the two halves of 1898 \$1,000,000, and for the first half of 1899 \$1,079,000. Add to this \$200,000 for local debts, and the total is \$412,900. They had already voted \$30,000 in preliminary Estimates for three months, making the total \$442,900. This left \$382,649 to be voted now. The Estimates brought down amounted to only \$340,000. The range of the vote was very great, and it will be voted in Supplementary Estimates at the 1898 session, which would be required for the cost of the election. It is proposed to call for the general elections to immediately follow (\$15,000) leaving in round numbers \$400,000 for contingencies. There is no further provision for agricultural societies in the fall of 1898, etc. Any increase which they might procure in the Ottawa grants will be voted in next year in Supplementary Estimates.

ALL PLAIN FIGURES.

This was the first time in their history that the figures of the budget were available so early. In nearly every year prior some portion of the sum had been withdrawn for some purpose, and instances of such withdrawal were taken for relief work which necessarily disorganized their finances. This year there were no outstanding accounts, no old debts, no overdrawals, so the district votes to be readjusted.

THE SAME OLD TROUBLE.

The Estimates were very much the same as in previous years, and necessarily so. They had to meet the same services, although they found some of them under new names.

After dwelling upon the change in organization, the Premier said: "The figures will be more or less the same as last year, but the machinery will be all changed. The machinery would not be made dearer, was strictly observed. There were a few instances where it was right to make changes, but in most cases it was right to do away with them. This had been a change in organization. These were increases justifiable by new duties increased by the new organization, and the efficiency in the work done. Practically the only increase in staff were in the Public Works Department, which provided for a civil service, who would do duty for several departments; and one official, who would be Clerk of Assessors, and Accountant. The increase in staff was only transferred from the office of the Lieutenant-Governor (Mr. Gordon). He had been formerly appointed to the office, and had been a Member of Assembly, and Official Secretary of the Governor, and in reality held a position analogous to that of the Clerk of Assessors in the civil service. Practically this official was transferred to the Assembly, and the salary attached was \$1,000.

Mr. Haultain said he could not discuss the Estimates in detail. Most of the items were familiar, and could be discussed in a general way. They could not vote for Administration of Justice, which carried a significant emphasis and emphasis on the law. They could not vote for a change from Executive Committee to Executive Council. A necessary adjunct to any proper Council was a legal counsel who was not only responsible, and without whom no government could conduct its business. He was the personal legal counsel of the Government, and the administration of the liquor licenses law came under this head.

LAW WILL BE ENFORCED.

The Premier had a lengthy reference to the difficulty of securing enforcement of the liquor law, and the inability of the inspectors to prevent breaches. He said that the Government were bound to have the law respected. He said he would not explain fully the course that was adopted, but that it was very clearly that they had proposed to resort to the means that were available to other provinces, and that they could not be proved to be effective in this regard—namely detectives. He said that the Government, and himself, had tried to strain every resource to secure the observance of the law, and if, after using every legitimate means, they failed—if they found the licensees were not willing to cease to grant any privileges by law, and could not be compelled to, then to cease to grant any privileges by law.

PUNISHMENT WORKS.

Mr. Haultain had committed into the idea upon which the Government worked out the Public Works Estimates. They had cut the division between Electoral districts. Taking the whole Territories as a distinct unit, the division had to make the most immediate and urgent requirements. This system had been adopted by the Home Office, and was adopted at the suggestion of the House. Regarding the increase of staff—the creation of the Department—no apology was necessary. The increase was due to the fact that to take the place of the 29 Ministers of Public Works, engineers, surveyors, overseers, was to add 100 men. The duties were, whose valuable services they had been deprived of last year by the change in system of dealing with public works.

THE ALTERNATIVE.

He touched on the party line question, much in the same terms as in his Moos Jaw speech.

After dealing at some length with the question of Education, and touching upon the matter of Consolidation of the Ordinance, the Premier turned to consider the question of the Territorial Government constitutionally and financially, saying that the position was that of the Territories, probably that of every province, and probably that of every before, and deserves most careful consideration. He said that the new duties, increased responsibilities and enlarged jurisdiction, involved much larger financial obligations. The Government had always been more generous in extending the legislative jurisdiction than in extending the financial obligations.

Previously we approached close to provincial basis, but financially we are a long distance from that basis. Still, however, the present arrangement was not wholly unsatisfactory.

In 1891 the grant was \$165,000. In 1897 the grant was \$1,079,000, or an increase of 800% in five years, or an increase of 80 per cent since 1892—not a small amount or proportionate increase. But we are asked to do more.

After pointing out some of the difficulties in the way of Territorial representatives at Ottawa, and the difficulties in the way of the Territories, he went on to confront them when they proposed to increase the grant to the West. Mr. Haultain said that the grant would ever go up, and the amount of it might be greater, but it would not be less. So far as he could see, he had found him quite willing and capable of entering into, and comprehending the position of the Territories.

He said that the grant was to be given to them what they had to say, and to give all the encouragement in his power to do so.

The next speaker was Mr. Haultain, who justified hope that he was going to get all the grants that he wanted and needed for.

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