

In my address to you at the opening of the Session I draw attention to the large increase in the number of steamers coming to the Port, and in the growth of our Coal Bunkering Trade.

The Collector of Customs has given a revised estimate of Customs Receipts, based on the actual receipts for 1911-12 of £405,350 against his original estimate of £335,325 and has estimated the Receipts for 1912-13 at £405,500.

Under Licenses, Excise and Internal Revenue although the actual receipts for 1910-11 were over £265,063 the estimate for 1912-13 is £257,456.

There was a large amount of Rum taken out of Bond in 1911 in anticipation of an increase in the Excise Duty which, though at one time discussed, was, as you are aware, not imposed.

EXPENDITURE.

The total Estimated Expenditure is :—

Ordinary or Annually Recurrent	...	...	...	...£ 904,237
Extraordinary (including £20,000 for Road Scheme)	...	...	...	... 62,311
Total	...	...	...	...£ 966,548

an increase of £39,514 over 1910-11 and £16,644 over the Estimate for 1911-12 or, if we eliminate the £20,000 for the Road Scheme for the moment, there is a decrease on last year of £3,356.

The principal increases are under Pensions, the automatic increases by increments to salaries, certain new increases to existing salaries, the reorganization of the Registrar-General's department, readjustment of the salaries in the Constabulary Force, a new Printing Machine, a large increase for the expenses of witnesses, &c., extra Clerks of the Peace which were found to be necessary in certain districts, reorganization of the Forest Department, an increase of nearly £3,000 under Education, £900 under Prisons and Reformatories, £500 under Agriculture, and £8,415 under Railway.

On the other hand there are large savings under Immigration and Miscellaneous.

The following are the principal items of Increases and Decreases in the various departments :—

1. PUBLIC DEBT.—A net saving of £910 in consequence of all the unconverted debentures under the first Railway loan having been redeemed.

2. PENSIONS.—An increase of £1,109.

4. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The salaries of the 4th, 5th and 6th Clerks have been placed at the former rates, the office work being very materially increased since the rates were reduced. The increase this year is £24. An increase of £200 in the vote for telegrams is necessary, the former provision being found inadequate for the increased business.

5. AUDITOR-GENERAL.—The work and responsibilities of the Chief Clerk have much increased and it is proposed to alter the title of the office to Assistant Auditor-General, with an increase of salary of £100 (£500-600) by annual increments of £25.

6. IMMIGRATION shows a decrease of £11,360, 2,300 immigrants being provided for against 3,200 in 1911-12.

7. RECEIVER-GENERAL.—Increase £102. Increments to salaries and transfer of an Hindi Interpreter from the Warden's Department, San Fernando.

8. SAVINGS BANK.—£56 automatic increase.

9. CROWN LANDS.—Net decrease £1,553. £50 is asked for an increase by way of personal allowance to the Sub-Intendant of Crown Lands who has a great deal more of very responsible work thrown on him by the oil applications, licenses, &c. £341 increase on re-organization of the Forest Rangers transferred from the Wardens to the Forest Department. This much needed re-organization of the Forest Department had to be postponed last year. It is probable that an increased revenue from Forests will result and ultimately more than cover the extra expenditure. There is a decrease of £1,850 for Surveys and of £700 for Compensation Surveys, which however is a cross entry with the Public Works Department to which this item is transferred. Refunds of deposits on applications for Crown lands is reduced by £350. £75 decrease for law and other expenses.

10. CUSTOMS.—Increase £364. Increments to salaries and £10 increase to the Motor Engineer of the Government Revenue Schooner.

11. CONSTABULARY.—Increase £587. Re-adjustment of pay of Lance-Corporals and Constables, £236. Good Conduct pay allowance, £250. Detective Sergeant-Major, Extra duty pay £65, and Rural Constables, £80.

13. REGISTRAR-GENERAL.—Increase, £283. Re-organization of the Department. Two additional clerks instead of a Vault Keeper; and a Messenger.

14. POST OFFICE.—Decrease of £1,564. This includes £2,000 reduction of the Royal Mail Subsidy from £20,000 to £18,000, and leaves an increase of £436. The work of the Post Office has very greatly increased since the salaries of some of the officers were fixed, especially since the Island Head Quarters of the Royal Mail Company were transferred to Trinidad and an increase is asked for some of the Junior Clerks, viz., the 4th and 5th Clerks, the Parcels Clerk and 3 Letter Sorters. £14 for Good conduct allowances to Letter Carriers. £128 is required for the die for the new postage stamp.

15. PORT AND MARINE.—Decrease £776. The s.s. "Paria" has been transferred to the Railway Department to assist the "Naparima" on the South Coast Gulf trade. An increase of £50 by £10 annual increments is asked for the Clerk and Boarding Officer whose duties have increased with the trade of the port. A Clerical Assistant at San Fernando, £12 10, is a new appointment. This Officer is also Clerk to the San Fernando Waterworks Authority.