

strong finance, I think it is best to place the position candidly before you. Our resources may be stated thus :—

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Receipts for past year...	4,796,000
Deduct land- and income-tax	£377,500	
Deduct sinking fund debentures	70,300	
			<u> </u>	447,800
				<u>£4,348,200</u>
A moiety of £4,348,200 is, say	2,174,000
To this may be added the unappropriated balance of the surplus	90,000
Sinking fund debentures to be issued	73,000
Additional estimated receipts for two weeks	167,000
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Making a total of estimated receipts	2,504,000
Estimated expenditure (as above)...	2,441,000
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Leaving an excess of receipts	<u>£63,000</u>

I have put these figures before you so as to show you that there is no uncertainty as to the finances being amply sufficient to meet requirements until Parliament is again in session. I must, at the same time, state that the first half of the year is very much the worst half so far as the revenue is concerned : on the other hand, the expenditure is scarcely likely to reach the figures quoted. Members will notice that I have included a sum of £73,000 for sinking fund debentures to be issued during this current year ; but I am carefully considering whether the time has not arrived, as the finances of the colony appear to be able to bear it, to dispense altogether with the issue of debentures against the accretions of sinking fund derived from the Loans to Local Bodies. Probably, next session I shall ask you to have the law amended in this direction. I hope that in placing before the House this memorandum and accompanying tables honourable members will recognise the difficulties there are in the way of giving the necessary information in a more complete form. I trust, however, that I have sufficiently demonstrated that there is no cause whatever for any anxiety in respect to the financial position of the colony.