

Proceedings of the House of Assembly

MR. MORINE — Mr. Chairman, money for the saving of life should be little limited; but the point is that you are spending the \$24,000 to save the lives of people suffering from this disease, and the question is whether you would not save more lives through the country by going to work along the lines laid down by that Committee. I believe that you can do more good to the health of the people and save a great many more lives by another system than you can save by the system that he follows. Another objection to that system is that you are taking this sum of money from tax-payers of the Colony and spending it in one place among a certain number of people, when the people of the Colony ought to have some share and ought to get an opportunity of the improvements and benefits which that expenditure ought to bring about. It has been found in other countries that as far as the treatment of consumptives is concerned the period of the illness being so long that what they want more than anything else is proper nursing and open air and good clean food, and that instead of sending them to a hospital, they should as far as possible be placed near a place where their relatives and friends are. They should be surrounded by their friends or easier reached by them. They will not be so homesick; they will be helped by their friends who will bring things to them. A number of small sanatoriums around the country near the towns would be most beneficial and many of the people will go to this place and receive treatment, and the cost of keeping such an institution would be very much less by the contributions of friends by the bringing of foods and other things by these friends; whereas if you take them from their homes you will have them in a place where money is needed and where they have no friends. If you are going to make this expenditure you ought to put these small sanatoriums around the country and I hardly think it fair that you should spend all this money for these individual consumptives at the cost of so much when you might be doing much better and more effective work in another direction. I you

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cannot build these sanatoriums then send around to the various outposts and distribute all these benefits throughout the Island, and in the long run you will save a great many more lives than by taking chronic consumptives and treating them as you are now doing. At present you are treating only the hopeless cases. What you ought to do is to get after those cases which are in the early stages. You are treating these hopeless cases, you are only helping to prolong life, and while that is very desirable in the interest of charity we can hardly say that as public men we are justified in taking \$10,000 for that purpose to save perhaps one life or prolong one life, when you might have saved twenty if you had been spending it in the right way. Now I approach this subject not from any partisan view, not from any suggestion of politics. I say that this system which is followed out now is not the best way to deal with this subject. We have to approach this subject with a broad mind, and we must realize that the only effective way to deal with it is by a system something on the lines of the work which was carried out by that Association of which Mr. Harvey was the leader. There is no one here more interested in this work than Mr. Harvey, and I think that he disapproves of the work as it is now carried out. The work outside has been dropped, and the work seems to be brought down to sending people to a hospital in St. John's; people who are bad cases. I was surprised the other day when I took up the vital statistic to compare them with those of other countries, and find the tremendous proportion of consumption in this country; all throughout the country. That is the point we have to grapple with. It is all over the

country. We have to teach the people the causes of consumption in order to save the thousands and tens of thousands that are growing up in danger of this disease. This is the day of Commissions. This is a matter that should be grappled with by competent medical men from all over the country. Why not have a Commission of these men and have them give the Colony something for the money they are expending. Act upon their report and do not allow this money to go on being wasted as it is with, so very little being done. I know that the Minister who spoke a few moments ago will agree that this money could be spent so as to give the best results and the best way to get this is by appointing a Commission of professional and lay men to decide what is the best course to follow. I will give any support to this vote. I took up this matter some years ago in this House. I will therefore give my support to this vote of \$24,000, but I do appeal to the Government to stop and consider long enough to take up this matter seriously, and I hope that when we next debate the subject, it will be upon the report of a strong commission of professional and lay men.

RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.

Mr. Chairman: Just a word or two on the question of Tuberculosis. I may point out to the honorable members that we had a commission here for this matter for quite a number of years. The initial work was carried on by a Society presided over by the Hon. John Harvey, and as has been pointed out good work was done. Lecturers were sent all over the Island, and by such general methods the attention of the public was arrested, and very perceptibly so, to this great scourge. Very few people could be got to realize what this disease was. Had it been smallpox, diphtheria or any other well known illness which was spreading throughout the country at this tremendous rate, they would have been frightened and have called the police to protect them and placard the infected houses, but tuberculosis being a silent and insidious disease, slow and gradual in its work, they sat down and gave it no attention.

For many years, Mr. Harvey and his associates did great service, entirely voluntarily and with no contributions from the Government. It was not till 1909, when we came in, that a commission was appointed consisting of Hon. J. Harvey with, as associates, Drs. Rendell and Keegan, and that they obtained a grant of \$5,000 per year from the Government and worked assiduously for three or four years. Last year this commission reported in favor of a department being created for this work. On their own recommendation Dr. Rendell was appointed to do this work.

There is something in what my learned friend, Mr. Morine, has said, when he said that a great deal of attention has been given to this matter in St. John's, and none in the outports. There are several explanations for this. The Reid Newfoundland Co. offered sanatoriums for each district, and last year, when the Duke of Connaught was here the first corner stone was laid. I have seen the plans and am told the erection will cost from sixty to seventy thousand dollars. It is proposed all over the country, which would be less expensive to keep up. I think if I wished to get the records I could show to this House and the whole country that a great many outport patients had the services of Dr. Rendell at his dispensary, and this is supposed to be one of the best and most effective ways of treating this plague. Not all who are affected with this disease require hospital treatment. Some have not reached that stage when they are seriously ill. Those who are can be effectively treated by the doctors in their own homes, and many are treated in that way. There are certainly a great many sufferers in St. John's. The total amount voted last year for this work was \$24,000, but of this, only \$13,000 or \$14,000 was spent, and out of that \$3,000 was for the sanatorium site at Waterford Bridge. Of course it is distinctly understood that this is not a party matter, and I am sure both sides of this House are united on this great question. The establishment of sanatoria will place every doctor in a better position as regards such patients.

As for a doctor to take charge of this work, there is none better than Dr. Rendell. He went abroad at the expense of the country to London, Ed-

inburgh and studied there. Then he has spent a great many years at the hospital under Dr. Shea, and having had about twenty years' experience, has had an excellent opportunity of studying this; and if he does not now know what is necessary it will be difficult to find one who does.

The manner in which Dr. Rendell is now doing the work is that recommended by Sir Wm. McGregor, who is a doctor of medicine, and who knew somewhat of the conditions here. So I am hoping that with the present outlook this plague will be fully grappled with, and feel sure that when we have a sanatorium in every district the spread of tuberculosis will be checked.

Another matter mentioned by Mr. Coaker was the increase in the Governor's travelling expenses. This vote is necessary on account of the many trips made by him to outport places which in former times used to be neglected by Governors. Governors McGregor and Williams travelled all over the country and interested themselves in the lives of the people and became acquainted. Sir Wm. McGregor went twice to Labrador, and to do so found it necessary to travel in small schooners on several occasions.

The position of the Governor to-day is very different from what it was in Governor Boyle's time. Governors must entertain very largely. Last year for instance we had the Duke of Connaught here, and the hospitality which had to be extended to the many invited to meet him meant a great expense and cut a large portion off the Governor's allowances for affairs such as this. The cost was not so much for the entertainment of the Duke, but for guests. This is a practice which has grown in every country, and is an advantage to every country. Besides this Royal visitor we had the Royal Commission, of which fourteen or fifteen members stayed at Government House. This is not like a place like New York, when such visitors would go to an hotel. Here the one place is Government House, and there they must be entertained. This I think will explain the necessity for that vote. As to the Governor giving a voucher for every dollar spent, I think that this is more than ought to be asked or expected of him. When Governor Boyle went away the attention of the Government was forcibly called to the small salary allowed a man in such a position. Voting this amount is for ourselves and in our own interest as it is in our interests that the personnel representative of the King should entertain in conformity with his position. Now there were some other matters referred to here to-day, but I do not know that it is necessary for me to speak of these at the present moment.

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