

the situation in which he was placed, he thought that the House would agree that he was taking the most convenient course, after hearing the explanations of the hon. Secretary of State, in stating that he would not bring on his motion to-morrow.

The order was discharged.

SMALL-POX IN KEEWATIN.

MOTION FOR PAPERS.

Hon. Mr. GIRARD moved:—

“That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General, praying that he will be pleased to lay before this House, copies of all correspondence between the Government of Canada, the Council of Keewatin, and the Government of Manitoba, in reference to the Small-Pox disease, prevailing during last spring amongst the Icelanders, with all claims and accounts paid and unpaid relating to that matter.”

He continued—So much has been said in reference to this matter, that the public need some explanations, and this is why I make this motion. During last spring that dreadful disease—small-pox—appeared in the Icelandic Settlement, west of Lake Winnipeg, and also among the Indians. The Icelanders had been settled there only a few months before, and, after their long journey by sea and land, they were quite unprepared for this fearful scourge which appeared amongst them. The Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Manitoba, who was, at the same time, *ex-officio* Governor of the Territory of Keewatin, was authorized to organize a Board of Health. He did so, the Board being composed of a certain number of gentlemen who were there not only as ordinary health-officers, but as executive councillors of the Council of Keewatin. The measures which they took were most effectual, and, at all events, prevented the spread of the dreadful disease into Manitoba. It was found necessary to establish a quarantine, and, as can be readily understood, considerable expense was incurred. I regret to say that difficulties have arisen as to the settlement of this expense, and I believe at this moment, a considerable portion of it remains unpaid. What I am now looking for is the settlement of the portion pertaining to the Province of Manitoba. When we consider how small its revenue is, and how much is required for the improvement and construction of highways

Hon. Mr. Dickey,

which are absolutely needed by the people, and when we consider, also, that all this expense was due to causes outside of Manitoba, I think we should not be called upon to pay any portion of it. The Province was obliged, it is true, to protect itself, but the disease originated and raged in the Territory of Keewatin, which was under the rule of the Dominion Government. The whole of the expense should, therefore, have been met by the Government of Canada. I understand that the correspondence is very large, and as I only wish to ascertain what proportion of the expense the Government of Manitoba can be forced to pay, I would be satisfied to receive such information as bears upon that point. That is the correspondence in which the people that I represent are interested.

Hon. Mr. PELLETIER—There certainly cannot be any objection to bringing down the papers asked for by the hon. Senator. It seems to be only a question of expense. The correspondence, claims and accounts asked for are very voluminous, and I am sure it would take one clerk three months to copy them. All the accounts have been carefully examined at Winnipeg by a Committee composed of the Hon'bles Mr. Norquay and Mr. Begg, on behalf of the Government of the Province of Manitoba, and Messrs. McCall and Graham on the part of the Dominion of Canada. The Committee have reduced the claims where it was possible to do so, and have agreed upon the distribution of the whole amount to be paid—\$25,000—between the Government of Keewatin and that of Manitoba. The hon. gentleman makes a remark that the whole expense should have been paid by the Dominion Government. I am sure he will be satisfied when he sees that the Dominion Government paid the lion's share—that out of \$25,000 the Government of Keewatin (that is the Dominion Government) paid \$20,000, and only \$5,000 was charged to the Government of Manitoba. As I said before, the correspondence is so voluminous that it would entail considerable expense to have it all copied. I may inform the hon. gentleman that the Minister of the Interior will give him access to all the papers, and will have any documents that he wants copied. With these explanations, I hope the hon. gentleman will not insist upon his motion.