

Proceedings of the House of Assembly

(Continued.)
HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Mr. Chairman: I would just add a word or two to what has already been said in this connection, and in reply to the statement asked for by the Hon. member for Twillingate. Mr. Coaker. As all are aware the amount voted was as customary \$24,000. Of this there was expended up to June 1914, \$12,000. A further deduction of \$3,000 for the site of the hospital at Mount Pearl made the total expended \$15,000. The expenditure of the account as voted since July first and up to April 1st is \$11,260.36. That is about the average expenditure under the present arrangement. The staff of the Tuberculosis Cottage Hospital is a medical superintendent, a nursing superintendent, (Miss Campbell) and six probationary nurses and some servants. The report of the medical superintendent as to the work being done there it will table. Referring to the report it will be seen that the average number of patients there is 14 or 15 per day including those in camps. As has already been said here the work has chiefly been in and about St. John's, but at the same time no application has come in from the outports and remained unattended to. The difficulty about outport patients is, as Dr. Rendell says, that if he goes to answer a call it is necessary for some one to take his place, as his place in St. John's ought not to be without a supply. Although it is quite impossible for the Doctor to leave St. John's yet nurses can and will be trained to take his place either there or here and attend to cases requiring attention, and I have no doubt that this service will be satisfactory. The acquisition of the Reid Sanatorium to this service will have a telling effect, but of course with the increased expenses made necessary by its maintenance it is quite evident that \$24,000 will not be enough. When the Government asked for this sum, they did not anticipate that it would all be expended and in fact but \$15,000 has been spent. The remainder has been transferred to the General Hospital grant. I think that this explanation ought to be sufficient.
MR. MORINE.—Just a word or two

Mr. Chairman. We are not talking about last year, but this year, and I suppose that the reason we are asked to vote this sum is because we are asked to. I think I find an error in what the Colonial Secretary has said. He thinks Dr. Rendell well suited to the work because of his experience as a physician. But Dr. Rendell has not conducted this campaign in the line laid down. I have heard the Hon. John Harvey and the Doctors who advocated the establishment of this department and they say that the work now is being done in a mistaken direction. What is attempted now is to have patients treated and cured of tuberculosis. This is where the physician Dr. Rendell comes in. All that is needed to cure this in time, fresh air and good food. This carrying on a curative business is a departure from the recommendations of the commission, as I think their idea was to have a board which would serve more as a bureau of information than as a hospital staff. This is why I think this a mistaken work. It rests with the government to confer with these gentlemen who recommended and vote accordingly. If some of it is to be transferred to the General Hospital, have that done here now. Most of this curative work can be managed by the doctors of the various outports. The outports, it has been admitted, get very small advantage from this system. They find out they have tuberculosis and take medicines which every doctor can tell them are no better, than water. What the country wants is to have its attention centered upon the causes of and the way of preventing this disease. This is the only good department of this sort can do. This situation is a peculiar one indeed. It is not a case of scarcity of money but to discover the best way to spend it. I agree most emphatically with those who maintain that the proper thing to do is not to spend this on people, individual cases, who having contracted the disease are doomed to die, but to educate in hygiene the people and the children who have not yet contracted it and are likely to. The Premier ought to have this matter enquired into. There can

AT THE NICKEL

be no doubt as to which of these two treatments is the better means of investing our money.
DR. LLOYD.—I would add just a word or two Mr. Chairman to what has already been said on this matter. I do not wish to question the great work that is being done but the fact of dealing with patients already sick. I do not question the expenditure, but only wish to emphasize what has already been said by the member for Bonavista, Mr. Morine, which was that the present system was a mistaken one. The opinion of Governor McGregor has been quoted but it will be remembered that he laid special stress on the necessity of educating the people along these lines. It will be remembered that the idea of the committee was that lectures be given all over the country, and that the school children be taught on such matters. This I think is the programme as they wished it and think that should it be followed out it would be the means of great benefits being done to the whole community.
 The unfortunate part of the present campaign is that that aspect of it is being dropped. You had only to go into any public office, or any private office, when that campaign was on, and you saw little signs such as "Don't Spit"—"Don't do this"—"Don't do that." All that has gone. Why? The need is as great to-day as it was in those days, as has been pointed out by the hon member for Bonavista, the main problem that we are up against is not the cure of those already afflicted with consumption, but it is to prevent the spread of consumption to those who are not afflicted to-day. Prevention, more than cure, is the main problem that we have to tackle; but at the same time I am not in any way depreciating the

good work done in connection with efforts to cure; what I am regretting is that the campaign of education has been practically dropped, and though I have not had any conversation with Mr. Harvey, nor do I know much of what he said, I venture to assert that that is the aspect of the present work—the dropping of the campaign of education—that he is deploring. Now, Sir, in connection with this fund a very remarkable thing has happened, there has been a surplus; and although that surplus has been turned over to the General Hospital, yet I think it would have done far better service if it had been spent in continuing the education campaign which was introduced by the Committee. I would strongly advocate that during the forthcoming year all the money he spent and that what is left over and above the amount actually needed for the treatment of consumptives be spent on education. I don't think we can accord to drop this phase of the question. Nothing that could happen to Newfoundland, not even the war that is at present raging, is as dangerous to us as the ravages of consumption; and if we are ready, for the sake of honor, to make an expenditure of \$1,000,000 in connection with the war, we surely ought to be prepared to spend \$10,000 to put down this greater evil that has been ravaging our people for so long. Now, Sir, I merely wish to add the force of my remarks to urge upon the Government the necessity of utilizing the whole of the grant, and of directing Dr. Rendell to take up, as well as the work which he has undertaken, the educative part of the campaign which was conducted by the Committee.
 Now, there is another matter in connection with which I would like to make a few comments. I would like to ask the Premier if he would table the actual vote made last year in connection with the Governor.
RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—You mean the general Estimates.
MR. MORINE.—The slips that go through the Clerk's table.
DR. LLOYD.—I mean the allowances to the Governor. I want the votes that were passed in connection with allowances to the Governor.
RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER.—You will find them in the Estimates of last year.
DR. LLOYD.—My understanding was that there was a vote of \$2,500 for travelling. My recollection, right or wrong, was that that vote was not to be spent in connection with entertainment. My understanding of the matter was that the Governor's salary was raised—and very properly raised—very considerably. We on this side of the House gave our assent to that increase on the very pretext put forward by the Premier was assigned as a reason for increasing the salary. It will be remembered that the unusual course was taken of tabling letters from the Governor dealing with his expenses at Government House and stating how much money he was out of pocket; and that afforded a pretext for asking for an increase in salary which this House very readily granted. But there was no suggestion whatever that the \$2,500 was to form part of an entertainment fund, and I think that no matter what has been the practice in the past that practice cannot justify wrong. No matter what Governments may have done in the past, that does not justify doing anything that is not right now. It may be that those concerned with this vote have not given proper thought to the matter, but, as I take it, this is an allowance to form a fund from which the Governor may draw for actual travelling. Now, speaking again from memory, I have some recollection of reading that this question was contested in Canada not very long ago in connection with a Chief—I think the Chief Justice of British Columbia.
MR. MORINE.—One of the Judges of British Columbia.
DR. LLOYD.—He claimed that he was entitled to the travelling expense vote, received the money, and refused to return it even when a claim was made for its return on the ground that he had not actually expended that sum of money in travelling. That led to a claim being made upon him for the return of the money, and the case was tried in some Court in Canada. I do not know what Court.
MR. MORINE.—Exchequer Court—before Judge Cassels.
DR. LLOYD.—What happened in this case was this: The Court held

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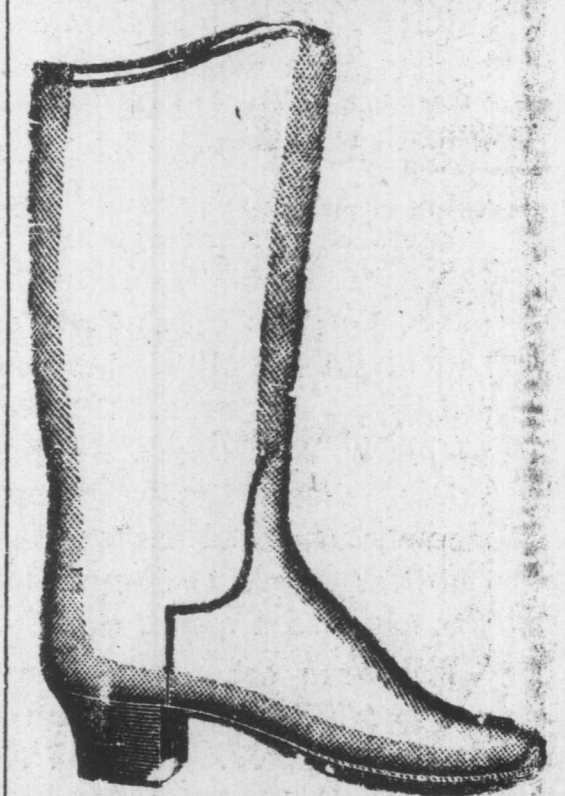
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a way, if you like that he will be able to draw it without any voucher. At the present time the Department of Finance is not justified in paying any part of this sum except upon a properly made voucher, as pointed out by the Audit Act. Put the thing in such a way that no question can be raised in connection with it, and at the same time protect the reputation of any man who may occupy the position of Governor of this colony.
MR. COAKER.—Mr. Chairman, with regard to this matter of the Governor's salary, last year we permitted the vote to go through as it stood. We raised no objection, as we thought that the Governor was entitled to what he asked so far as his salary was concerned; and when he asked to have his travelling expenses raised from \$1,000 to \$2,500, we consented to that also; but I want to state here now that if you alter the vote—if you want—we will not support it. We don't intend to vote for anything other than that which was passed last year. That \$2500 was voted for travelling expenses, and if you alter it in any way we will vote against it. Last year, everywhere we went in the North, we were told that all we had to do was to vote increases to the Governor. I am willing to allow that amount to go through for travelling expenses, but we will not support any alteration.
 The Cabinet crisis in Japan has been settled. The Premier, Count Okuma, it was announced on Aug. 8, at the request of the Emperor, has decided to withdraw his resignation and has re-formed his Cabinet. Following the example of Mr. Asquith at the time of the now almost forgotten Ulster crisis, when he tided over a difficult period by himself assuming the Secretaryship of War, Count Okuma becomes for the time being his own Foreign Minister, Baron Kato having declined to retain the portfolio.

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