

which, compared with the total expenditures, \$5,267,453.02, gives more than one-quarter being appropriated for medical services during that year.

Thus far, the importance of the medical work of the Provincial Government has been discussed from the financial standpoint, and this alone would constitute good grounds for advocating the still further enlargement of the Provincial Cabinet, by the creation of a minister who would have for his especial care the branches mentioned, which collectively form so important a part of the work of the Provincial Government; work which requires special professional attention, as does that of the Department of the Attorney-General, Agriculture, and Lands and Mines, over the former of which is a gentleman possessing high legal ability, while the Minister of Agriculture is a graduate of the Agricultural College, and a practical farmer, and the Minister of Lands and Mines possesses a practical knowledge of both branches over which he presides.

If further arguments of a financial nature are required, it may be noted that the revenue from the provincial hospitals alone is nearly \$100,000 yearly.

The magnitude of the work may further be obtained from the fact that 37 medical men are upon the staff, and 972 inspectors, clerks and other officers, or 1,009 officials, all engaged in work which has for its special object the health of the people.

There are, however, other and more important points to be considered, which would accentuate the plea more than the financial, although this would be thought sufficient reason by any corporation or business house to appoint a manager at an annual cost of \$4,000.00.

The Minister of Health in this Province should be in the same position, as regards the work of the department, as the Minister of Militia and Defence of the Dominion, who now discusses with his Council, composed of the heads of most of the branches, the work of the department; though it is to be regretted that the Director-General of the Medical Branch finds no seat in that council. He could and should take united counsel with his deputies and inspectors, also with the Superintendents of the Provincial Hospitals, and thus in conference not only obtain the medical counsel so essential for the successful administration of the hospitals, and all that appertains to the medical service, but also bring together officers who are comparative strangers to each other, and create in them a spirit of emulation in the discharge of their public duties. The defects of this particular hospital or branch would be shown to contrast with the successful workings of a sister hospital or branch, acting upon slightly different methods. Thus, too, would be worked out a system of internal economy in the management of public institutions and departmental branches.