

MR. BLANCHET said the hospital was supported by dues collected from the shipping, which amounted to \$15,723, and the total amount collected in the Province of Quebec was a little over \$19,000. The excess was, therefore, but \$300. True, there was a disproportion between the number of mariners and residents attended and the amounts paid by each, but that could not be helped. Were an epidemic to occur, the balance would be greatly in favour of the seamen. There was cause for congratulation that so few accidents had occurred and such a small amount of sickness had existed among the seamen frequenting the port of Quebec.

MR. MITCHELL said the hon. member thought the country ought to be congratulated, because \$20,000 had been collected for the sick seamen's fund, and that more than one-half of it had been expended on the residents of Quebec. This money had been collected from seamen to attend to their sick, and should be used for that purpose alone. This was an abuse of a public trust, and Parliament should not allow it to continue. If the Quebec Government refused to pay their pro rata share of the expense, the seamen's dues should be reduced as they had been before, since Confederation, and the residents of Quebec refused admission.

MR. BLANCHET said the hon. gentleman had been in power many years and had not been able to reform the system. In the Estimates of 1873-4, the appropriation asked was \$24,000. Now, the amount asked was \$20,000, and the staff in charge of the Administration was exactly the same. No institution in the country was conducted more economically than the Marine Hospital at Quebec. Were his hon. friend to return to power, he would not be able to change the system.

MR. LANGEVIN said there were nine medical men on the staff who were paid £300, amounting, on an average, to about \$400 each.

MR. MITCHELL said he trusted the Minister of Marine would endeavour to impress upon the Government of Que-

bec their duty to pay, at least, the \$1,000 this Government used to get out of them, towards a general hospital for sailors. He found, by the Estimates, that \$373 were paid for the insurance of this building. He understood that it was the policy of the Dominion Government not to insure their buildings. If they were going to insure, this should be done generally.

MR. CARON said he thought it would be very poor policy on the part of the Government to close this hospital up during winter, as it must be heated to prevent the building from being damaged; also, that the city of Quebec should pay a certain sum of money proportionate to the use made by the people of this institution for its maintenance, and it was a matter fairly open to discussion, whether the amount now paid should remain as it was or be increased. It was, however, not fair to ask the public of Quebec, who could do without this hospital, to pay as much as the mariners towards the keeping up of this institution. He protested energetically against the latter being called upon to pay the same as the mariners, for whom this establishment was maintained. He believed that the use of it for the benefit of the few sick who went to it from the city, did not increase its expenses. As far as salaries were concerned, if all the staffs were placed on an economical footing, no complaint would be made. The gentlemen who attended it were very able, and their salaries were very small indeed. He did not see that, in fairness or justice, these could be reduced. Between \$2,000 and \$4,000 would be a fair sum to pay for the services the city expected to obtain from this institution.

MR. MITCHELL said that this hospital was used by the city of Quebec at all seasons of the year. He thought that it was unjust to tax the seamen for the support of an institution from which the people of Quebec obtained a much larger share of benefit than they themselves did.

MR. LANGEVIN said that this question was discussed some years ago, when it was found that this sum, with a small reduction, would be required