

should bear a greater proportion of this cost so as to permit the erection of school houses in sparsely settled localities. Surely you will agree that this is not an unwise policy.

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION.

It was an easy drop for Mr. Bowser, while attacking the departments I have the honour to administer, to pay momentary attention to the hospital policy. He did not say much—only that I propose to increase the grants to hospitals, but many will die while I am thinking about it. Yet he said enough to give me an excuse for telling you just what we are doing in the matter of hospital support.

When we came into office we continued the policy of the former Government and gave the same financial support to hospitals as had been their practice. Under the stress of the influenza epidemic this policy proved ineffective, and we found several respects in which it was manifestly an unsound policy. As a result of these incidents we have improved the policy and made hospital service throughout the country much more efficient. In one notable instance I may emphasize the fact that we have now a qualified medical man as Inspector of Hospitals instead of a barber, as was the case under the previous Government.

We also have allowed general hospitals \$1 per diem for the care of T.B.C. patients, so that these will be maintained in hospitals rather than moving round among the people and spreading the disease. More than this, we are taking over Tranquille Sanatorium, so that patients at the onset of the disease can be isolated in an institution equipped to care for them, and where they will have every possible opportunity to recover their normal health.

These are not things that we have been "thinking" about, but things that we have done. In other respects we are adapting our policy to the necessities of the case as rapidly as circumstances show us this necessity and we can provide the funds for the purpose.

DOLLY VARDEN LEGISLATION.

In the matter of the Dolly Varden Mines legislation, Mr. Bowser gave you to understand that, although the 1919 Act had passed the House unanimously, yet in 1920 nine Conservatives and two Liberals voted against the amended legislation. He went on to explain his own position, and stated that he regarded the Act of 1920 as the most dangerous piece of legislation passed since British Columbia entered Confederation in 1871, as it took away the jurisdiction of the Courts and turned the Legislature into a "Small Pebbles Court." He feared greatly that Eastern capital—commonly known to be very timorous—would be frightened and stay out of the country while such an Act is in force, as titles are insecure under such legislation.

How easily and needlessly is Mr. Bowser frightened. The original Dolly Varden Mines Act was passed in 1919 and received the unanimous support of the House. The Dolly Varden Mines Company asked the Ottawa authorities to disallow this Act. The Dominion Government refused to exercise this power and the Act became law.