

ensure the safety of the people of the city and of the country that contagious disease should not be allowed to spread; but it seems that the period of incubation having passed over, and the individuals affected having been entirely isolated, the rest of the people might safely be allowed to pass on with freedom. The doctor in charge of the quarantine at William's Head decided to keep the vessel there until the period of incubation of the disease should have been passed. He was given instructions from here to use his judgment, as to what danger there would be and to see that all precautions were taken. That judgment, I believe, he will exercise and act according to. I may say, that the gentleman who is in charge of the station is one who has for a long time occupied an official position in the province of British Columbia. It is true, that it is only a short time since he has been in the position which he now holds. Circumstances which occurred there required a change of officer in the quarantine service, and as a consequence this new officer was appointed not long since. Dr. Watt who now holds the position, was the provincial health officer for the province of British Columbia.

Mr. PRIOR. He was not the provincial health officer; he was the secretary of the Provincial Board of Health.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes. "Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health," was the exact designation of his office. As a matter of fact, he was in charge of the public health of the province. He was appointed to the office which he now holds, and has gone to reside at William's Head, the quarantine station at Victoria. The officer who was in charge before did not reside at William's Head, but resided in the city of Victoria.

Mr. PRIOR. You are a little off there.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) says I am wrong, but I think the hon. gentleman himself is mistaken. Dr. Macnaughton Jones, who was for a number of years the quarantine officer at William's Head, resided at William's Head, but Dr. Macnaughton Jones died a year ago, and the friends of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) appointed Dr. Duncan to that position, but Dr. Duncan never resided at William's Head.

Mr. PRIOR. I beg your pardon, Dr. Duncan did reside at William's Head. I should know a little about it.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. My information is to the contrary.

Mr. PRIOR. Your information is wrong upon all points.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That remains to be seen. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) can prove that my in-

formation is wrong upon all points, I will be glad to give him an opportunity of doing so, and I will bring the documents to show that the information I am giving to the House is correct. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) has spoken about the importance of William's Head as a quarantine station. I fully realize that. I believe it is one of the most important quarantine stations in the Dominion. In consequence of the fact that we have constant communication between Victoria and China and Japan, where unfortunately there is more danger of acquiring contagious disease than there is from most of the countries with which we have communication. As a consequence of this, a few months ago, I sent Dr. Montizambert, chief quarantine officer of the Dominion, to carefully investigate this station and to see that every possible improvement both in the apparatus and in the buildings should be carried out, so as to put that station on a perfectly satisfactory basis. Dr. Montizambert made a report to me, which I have in my hand, asking for certain improvements, and I am informed that these improvements have already to a considerable extent been carried out. They were extensive in their nature and somewhat costly, but they are being carried out as rapidly as the officers of the Public Works Department in British Columbia can carry them out. A hydrochloric tank has already been put there. There has been erected a shed upon the wharf for the accommodation of passengers when they land, and where their baggage may be examined and, if necessary, disinfected. The steam chamber in the disinfecting house on the wharf has been lined so as to make it more effective in its work; trolley cars have been supplied, and a number of small matters in the way of lighting the wharf, and supplying necessary material for the apparatus, have been attended to. The shower and needle baths for the saloon passengers, and for the Chinese and Japanese passengers, are at present in process of construction. In addition to that, iron bedsteads of a particular pattern (which have been used for some years at Grosse Isle quarantine station with great advantage, being very easy to disinfect and keep clean), have been ordered to be sent out to the William's Head quarantine station, and some furniture for the station is also under order. The result is that in a short time the quarantine station at William's Head will be most effective and most complete in all its arrangements and all its apparatus.

It is true that one or two instances of detention have occurred there in consequence of the epidemic of small-pox which has been in existence in Japan. I am sure that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) who represents the city of Victoria, would be the last to wish that anything should be done which would endanger the health of the people of his city or of the province of British Co-