

over 3,000 licences granted where there are scarcely fifteen granted in Quebec; and outside of the large centres we find very few criminal cases arising from intemperate habits. I am glad to say that in our rural districts temperance is well kept.

Mr. PLATT. In the Province of Ontario efforts are already put forth, and public money is being expended for the purpose of collecting vital statistics, and with very good results. I would ask the hon. Minister if we are to have a separate set of officers collecting the same information, or, so far as Ontario is concerned, is this scheme meant to supplement the machinery now in operation?

Mr. POPE. Under this plan we only propose to collect statistics in certain portions of the country, but the plan will embrace mortuary as well as vital statistics. At first, we propose to apply it to eleven cities of Canada, comprising the capitals of the several Provinces and other cities containing 25,000 inhabitants or over. We shall collect mortuary and vital statistics, as well as enumerate all diseases and causes of death, and gather collateral information on the state of the public health. That is not now done by every Provincial official that I know of. Last fall, a conference of medical men on this subject was held in Ottawa, and was composed of fifty or sixty of the foremost physicians of various parts of the Dominion, and these gentlemen drew up a scheme, based on that of 1879, for the collection, tabulation and publication of mortuary and vital statistics. This scheme is made dependent on the organization of Local Boards, and the appointment of local sanitary officers, who are to be the officers for the collection of such mortuary and vital statistics. Upon the strong representations of the gentlemen composing this conference, the Government decided to ask for \$20,000 this year, and it is the intention to apply the scheme, after the first year, to the smaller cities and towns of the country. The allotment to the cities from the grant is composed of a bulk sum, which is not to exceed \$400 in each case, and a *per capita* subsidy of one cent per head of the population. Then it was supposed by my deputy, to whose valuable services I am almost entirely indebted in the preparation of this scheme, that the cost would likely be as follows in the several places: Montreal, \$1,800; Toronto, \$1,260; Quebec, \$920; Halifax, \$760; Hamilton, \$760; Ottawa, \$670; St. John, N.B., \$660; Winnipeg, \$480; Fredericton, \$460; Victoria, B.C., \$460. My hon. friend must recollect that this is the first attempt to collect health statistics and information that will be of use to the medical profession and the public generally; that we are just beginning the work, and that we cannot make any very clear or positive statement in detail as to the cost. I hope that after the experience of this year we will be able, next year, to give a closer approximation of the cost.

Mr. PLATT. The hon. Minister ought to be aware of the fact—and if not I will make him aware of it—that all the based information which he proposes to collect by his system is already being collected by the Ontario Board of Health, and these mortuary and vital and health statistics, and statistics regarding the various diseases, are all arranged for in Ontario, and a law is in operation for that purpose under which public money is being expended. The question I asked the hon. Minister was whether that portion of the grant belonging to Ontario is meant to supplement the action of those officers already engaged in that work, or will another set of officers be engaged to collect exactly the same class of statistics at an extra expense.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I may say, in reference to the remarks of the hon. gentleman, that there was a large delegation of highly intelligent and able medical men, and other gentlemen in Ontario, who came to my hon. friend to urge the action that is now being taken. Notwithstanding,

Mr. DESJARDINS.

ing that a great deal has been done in the way of collecting statistics of this character in the Province of Ontario, it was not felt that it was desirable to supplement the provincial system by the action taken by my hon. friend. As to the agency that is to be used, my hon. friend does not propose to select the officers at all; these officers will be selected by municipal authorities, they are to be the health officers who are already engaged by the local authorities, and the grant will be used by my hon. friend to supplement the salaries they are already receiving as such officers in the various districts, and will be used for the purpose of furnishing to the Department medical statistics of this character.

On Resolution 109,

Public Buildings, Ottawa—Additional Public Buildings, Wellington street..... \$200,000.00

Mr. BLAKE. Perhaps the hon. Minister of Public Works will state the plan by which the Government proposes to expropriate the property.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The amount asked in the Supplementary Estimates, \$84,000, will not be sufficient to meet the total sum required. There will be required about \$5,000 more. Of course, the hon. gentleman must know that we could not state exactly the amount required. I have obtained the following note from the Department. We have paid to the proprietors for the land \$87,849, and then we have settled with five tenants, \$1,250, and then there is the case of Mr. Mitchell of the *Free Press*, whose lease, I think, expires on 1st October. If we require the building before that time, compensation will have to be paid.

Mr. BLAKE. Then the principle is to deal with the owners of the property, and to pay the tenants damages for an early determination of their leases.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. We purchase the property, say three months ago, and from that moment the amount of the rental belongs to the Government, and we settle with tenants.

Mr. BLAKE. You purchased the property subject to the leases, and if you want to take the property away from the tenant you make arrangements with him to do so.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. That was the only way to do it under the circumstances.

On Resolution 168,

Salaries and disbursements of fishery overseers and wardens..... \$110,100.00

Mr. ROBERTSON (Shelburne). I think that the hon. Minister promised us some information with reference to reports under this item.

Mr. BOWELL. I found when I went to the Department that the reports were so voluminous that it was utterly impossible to bring them down. Mr. Whitcher set a man at work to copy them, but I told him to desist; I thought it unnecessary to go to all that trouble and expense as the papers could not be ready in time; but if any member desires to see any one of these particular reports which is not of a confidential character, he may see it. I trust that this will be satisfactory, as it would be utterly impossible to copy them in time.

On Resolution 164,

Completion and construction of lighthouses and fog-alarms..... \$40,600.00

Mr. CHARLTON. I think that some further explanations were to be offered regarding this item.

Mr. BOWELL. I am not aware of it; a full list of those proposed to be erected, together with the cost of each, and \$5,000 for completion and repairs, was laid before every member of the House. If there is any particular point