

gration. I was not minister when the building was undertaken, and I do not know the arguments which were urged by the minister for its construction, but, as I said, the Department of the Interior was of the opinion that Victoria should have a suitable immigration building. I am not prepared to say how many were deported, that will be in the report of the Interior Department.

Mr. BARNARD. I do not know that the conditions may not have changed in the last year since the preparation of the last published report. I observe that as a rule ministers are careful, in asking for appropriations, to point to statistics to show the necessity of the appropriation asked, and we must give the minister credit in this case for basing his request upon the actual needs of the immigration as revealed in the statistics for that port. I find in the report of the Immigration Department that the total number of immigrants detained in 1898 was 79. With only 79 detained in the course of a whole year, surely it is unreasonable to erect a hospital with a capacity for 134 beds, just as it is unreasonable, if you cut out the question of Oriental immigration, to say that you require a \$95,000 building for the purpose of putting up 190 immigrants during the year. I would like to ask the minister when the construction of this building was first requisitioned for and when it was first authorized.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The order in council for its erection was passed on the 19th of February, 1907. At that time the acting Minister of Public Works was authorized to purchase the land. The contract for the erection of the building was entered into on the 23rd of January, 1908.

Mr. BARNARD. Can the minister give me the date when the treaty with Japan was entered into?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I cannot give the exact date.

Mr. BARNARD. Perhaps the Minister of Agriculture could give that information.

Mr. FISHER. I think that was in 1905.

Mr. BARNARD. Can the minister tell us the date when the Minister of Labour departed on his visit to Japan?

Mr. FIELDING. In the latter part of 1907.

Mr. BARNARD. I do not like to make insinuations, but it would almost appear that the building was authorized to be constructed and was requisitioned for shortly after the treaty was made with Japan, and that it was done in expectation of a large influx of Japanese immigration as a consequence of that treaty.

Mr. CROSBY. In view of the fact which has been brought out to-night, and the fact that we have not money sufficient to construct the buildings which are necessary, it would seem strange that we should continue to construct this building.

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is to pay the contractor to finish the work.

Mr. CROSBY. In view of the fact that less than 200 white immigrants came into that port last year, and in view of the fact that no Oriental immigration is anticipated in the opinion of the Minister of Public Works, should the money be spent in that direction?

Mr. PUGSLEY. In my opinion we should vote the money to pay the contractor the balance.

Mr. CROSBY. In view of all that has been brought out to-night, will the minister say that we should continue to spend that money on that building?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes.

Williams Head quarantine station—improvements and repairs to buildings, and fittings, furniture, &c., \$5,000.

Mr. J. D. TAYLOR. As this is the last item under this appropriation, I would like to ask the minister whether he has received any communication from Chilliwack in respect to a public building there.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I have had several communications, and quite lately I received a telegram from certain residents of Chilliwack.

Mr. J. D. TAYLOR. Might I ask the minister if any results have followed from that telegram?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Not as yet.

Mr. J. D. TAYLOR. Because I have had urgent requests from Chilliwack to press upon the government the desirability, I might almost say the necessity, of proceeding with a public building at that point. I might remind the minister again that so late as October last the Minister of Inland Revenue who, I am sorry to say, is not present to-night, because he could bear me out in what I say, and would add his protestations to mine, since as an hon. gentleman he would no doubt want to see his promise carried out—promised the people of Chilliwack that they would have this building, and was in so generous a mood that he intimated to them that since the site just then chosen for this building was not the most suitable, he might have a drill hall put up on the lot and erect a post office on another site. I may say that there was \$5,000 voted last session towards this building, of which only \$3,000 has been expended on the purchase of the site, that