

Mr. MICHAUD: The hon. minister said that the minimum increase would be \$50. A man with a salary of \$500 ought to get the maximum increase. Has he any chance?

Mr. REID: It depends upon circumstances. We have men getting \$200, \$300, or, perhaps, \$500 a year. They are customs officers at small places where it would hardly pay to keep a permanent officer to do the work, and they do not give their entire time to the work. These men are not as likely to get the increase as those who depend entirely on these salaries for a living.

Mr. McCRANEY: I would like to say a word to the minister with reference to the duty on pure alcohol, which is used in public hospitals.

Mr. REID: If the hon. gentleman is referring to a change in the tariff, that relates to the Finance Department, and not to my department. The Finance Minister makes the tariff.

Mr. McCRANEY: Does the minister in his department not deal with the question of free alcohol, as well as the Inland Revenue Department?

Mr. REID: We only deal with it as stated in the tariff. We do not change the tariff. The hon. gentleman can see the item, and that item has been passed by Parliament

Mr. McCRANEY: I want to discuss a memorandum which I have received from the superintendent of the Saskatoon Hospital, if I may do so. I have a resolution on the Order Paper calling for correspondence, but I shall not be able to get on with that, and perhaps the minister will permit me to place this memorandum on Hansard, and he may give me some answer

9 p.m. swer when the item comes up again. It appears the duty on proof alcohol is \$2.42 per proof gallon to wholesale liquor houses, and charitable institutions pay \$3 per proof gallon.

Mr. REID: That is imported alcohol.

Mr. McCRANEY: The letter does not say whether it is inland revenue or customs.

Mr. REID: I think the hon. gentleman is referring to the Inland Revenue Department.

Mr. McCRANEY: That may be so.

Mr. REID: But it is all right; the hon. gentleman can make his statement.

Mr. McCRANEY: The chairman of the Board of Governors of the Saskatoon Municipal Hospital sends me this memorandum giving reasons for remitting duties on alcohol:

(1) All hospitals throughout Canada are finding it a great hardship in paying the prices demanded for pure alcohol, one of the most necessary drugs used in the preparation of patients for surgical operations, in the treatment of wounds, and for bathing purposes.

(2) The reason given for the exorbitant price demanded is the excessive excise duty imposed on same by the Dominion Government.

(3) Hospitals are losing huge sums every year in the treatment of the sick. In our own small hospital (100 beds), we have an annual loss of from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

(4) Statistics show that the average cost per patient per day to hospitals throughout the Dominion runs from \$2.15 to \$2.50. The Dominion Government have only paid \$1.50 per day for soldiers, their wards. They have not allowed extras for operating-room fees, or expensive drugs.

(5) Where alcohol is used in any quantity, or any other expensive drug, hospitals are compelled to charge the patient for same, therefore it increases the cost to patients, and thereby puts a penalty on sickness.

(6) Thirty to forty per cent of patients treated in public hospitals are unable to pay anything, and in consequence the hospitals have to bear the entire burden.

(7) Is it necessary to obtain revenue from the sick and afflicted, particularly when our universities are allowed the privilege of imparting anything they require for experimental and teaching purposes? Public hospitals, we consider, should have the same privileges extended them as our universities are receiving.

(8) The United States Government allows all hospitals alcohol tax free,

(9) From the good work our public hospitals are doing, more especially as they are losing thousands of dollars annually, we consider the Dominion Government should allow, not only alcohol, but all hospital supplies to be imported free of duty.

That is signed on behalf of the board of governors by John A. Valens, M.D., chairman, and John Ryan, secretary. At Saskatoon we have the University of Saskatchewan, which imports alcohol for experimental purposes in its laboratory. The hospital authorities have sent me a copy of an invoice of a barrel of alcohol. It reads:

Purity Distilling Co.	
Division of	
U.S. Industrial Alcohol Co.,	
915-955 Cambridge St., East Cambridge, Mass.	
1 barrel ethyl alcohol, serial No.	
133343—proof 190—48.10 gallons	
at .80	\$ 38.48
Duty paid in Saskatoon, 62 O.P. gallons at \$3	186.00
7½ per cent war tax on \$38.48	2.85
Freight from Boston	5.57
Delivery charges50
	\$233.40