

Mr. CARLING. I cannot give the figures, but Mr. Wade, the secretary of the Agricultural Association of Toronto, visited the Maritime Provinces, and he told me the delegates had been very successful in inducing people to send exhibits to the London Exhibition.

Mr. McMULLEN. No doubt some may have come from the Maritime Provinces, but I think that the hon. gentleman will find that unless he adopts the system of increased prizes and facilities to exhibitors from the outlying Provinces, he will not get much representation from them. I am glad to know that advantages were offered, and I hope they will be increased, if we are going to continue the grant at all.

Health Statistics ..... \$10,000 00

Mr. WILSON. On several occasions we have asked for information in connection with health statistics. Last year we contended it was unreasonable to ask us to vote the amount then asked, \$15,000, without giving us a detailed statement of the work done. During the year 1884-85, about \$8,000 were used, and now we find the Government asking for \$10,000. I have no objection that there should be expenditure on health statistics properly collected, but I would like to know if we are getting a proper return for our expenditure. It appears to me there is no system really adopted by the Department to make the new service efficient. It is confined wholly to cities and towns, and while we are anxious to have statistics from the cities and towns, we should not rely wholly upon their statistical reports, but we ought to have some means of getting reports from the rural sections as well.

Mr. CARLING. The total amount voted last year was \$15,000, and the amount expended, \$7,917, and we are only asking \$10,000 this year. We are extending our enquiries to all the towns and cities where boards of health are appointed, and the amount of information to be obtained is increasing. We intend to extend our enquiries as far as we can.

Mr. WILSON. In what way is it intended to extend the system? Is it proposed to extend it to the rural sections?

Mr. JENKINS. I believe that the object of this vote is an excellent one, but my experience is that the money is not wisely expended. I believe it is worse than thrown away, because information on the subject, to be useful, must be thoroughly reliable and complete. The information we get is neither reliable nor complete, and I hope the Government will soon see its way to get up an efficient registration of births, marriages and deaths, as that is the only thing that can be of real value in this connection. The information received now is exceedingly imperfect, and therefore of very little value to the country at large. But I think an official registration of births, marriages and deaths, would give information which would be exceedingly valuable, and I hope the Government will see its way next Session to bring in a Bill for that purpose.

Mr. CARLING. I think the information so far as it goes, taken from the different towns and cities, is thoroughly reliable, and that we can depend upon the officer who collects the information in each city. As I mentioned to the hon. member for East Elgin (Mr. Wilson), it is the intention to collect information from other towns and cities as far as possible, but the amount of money asked for is not very large, and in the country districts there are no boards of health such as we have in the cities and towns. The hon. gentleman can rely upon everything being done by the Department to obtain all the accurate information they possibly can.

Mr. WILSON. I do not know how it may be in other Provinces, but in Ontario there are townships' boards of health in the greater portion of the townships.

Mr. McMULLEN.

Mr. CARLING. Not to any great extent.

Mr. WILSON. I know a number, and the Local Legislature has passed an Act empowering the municipal council to establish boards of health, to whom it would be very easy for the Minister to extend the collection of this information. I agree thoroughly with the remarks made by my hon. friend that they are not carrying out this efficiently at all, that the expenditure is worse than thrown away, because we have a statistical report that is unreliable in every particular and tends to mislead the general public. If we are going to have reports, they ought to be such as we could depend upon, but no one can place any confidence in the correctness of the reports from this bureau. I see items for travelling expenses. I see Dr. Tweedle, of St. Thomas, is credited with receiving a certain amount for travelling expenses. Now that city is very small, where has he been travelling? What has he been doing? Riding round the city in a cab, perhaps? I see that other physicians were paid for travelling expenses, and I would like to know what that was for. Were they called down here to receive their instructions? Could not the instructions have been sent? They must certainly lack ability to appreciate their duties if it was necessary that they should come to Ottawa to get instructions to collect a few health statistics. I also see charged to this item, so as to make the amount appear somewhat large, a sum for extra services. If we pay the fees of the different individuals, \$10 a month, for collecting these vital statistics, I would like to know if we are to pay a similar amount for copying. It is nothing more nor less than utilising the money to spend it, perhaps, satisfactorily to their friends in the various Departments where they are serving.

Mr. CARLING. The hon. gentleman is quite mistaken. The boards of health in the different towns recommends a medical man for that position, and he has been invariably selected and appointed by the Government. With regard to the travelling expenses, it was thought proper, by the Deputy of the Department, Dr. Taché, a very worthy man, a man of a great deal of experience, that, when these parties were appointed, they should be brought to the capital to receive their instructions and to receive the forms. I do not think there is anything very wrong in that. Either the officer had to come or some one would have had to be sent to him.

Mr. WILSON. I see an item here, R. Tracy, \$32 for travelling expenses. He is not a physician. Perhaps the Minister will tell me who he is and where he is located.

Mr. BOWELL. He lives in Belleville.

Mr. CARLING. That took place in 1884, I think, and I cannot state now who R. Tracy was or what the \$32 was paid for, but I can get the information.

Mr. AUGER. I see travelling expenses to Mrs. A. F. Lyster. Will the Minister tell us who she is and what she has been travelling about?

Mr. CARLING. Mrs. Lyster has been for some years the head of this branch, and in some cases she was sent to give instruction instead of the parties being brought to the capital. If expenses were paid to Mrs. Lyster to go to a particular city, no expenses were paid to the party to come here.

Mr. JENKINS. I can corroborate what has been said by the Minister as to the political character of the medical men appointed, because the gentleman chosen in Charlotte-town is one of the most arrant Grifts we have, but I think the statistics are utterly unreliable.

Mr. WILSON. I did not complain of the amount paid for collection, but of the amount paid for extra services in the Department.