

with respect to the immigrants who were expected to use this immigration building, but who owing to the efforts of those of us in British Columbia who would not stand this class of immigration have been prevented from entering the province for the time being. Since the government are determined to go ahead with this building the only inference is that they have some idea of putting it at some time to the use for which it was originally intended. If the government still have in mind to bring into British Columbia Oriental immigration on such a scale that they need at Victoria a building of this kind, I think it is the duty of the minister to ascertain from his colleagues if the information is not in the possession of his department and let us know what we have to expect in that respect. While I agree with all the minister has said as to the importance of Victoria as a seaport and as to the large number of persons who travel to it from Seattle, Tacoma, San Francisco, and other points in the United States, it must be remembered that these persons are not of the class commonly known as immigrants, that they are not the class of people who would use an immigrant shed, and that the class of travel to Victoria, other than Oriental immigration, consists of the highest type of passengers who under no circumstances whatever would be likely to require accommodation in an immigration building except half dozens at a time, in cases of exceptional poverty or misfortune which the government could attend to without this building. So far as sickness is concerned, the immigration building is not needed to take care of the sick passengers who come on plague boats because this building will be within sight of the William Head quarantine station which is only three quarters of an hour's sail from it. Is there any probability that in the near future the Oriental immigration, now suspended, is likely to be renewed?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The government has no reason to suppose that the arrangement which I am happy to say was arrived at between the representative of this government and the imperial government of Japan will be departed from. The expectation is that the restriction of immigration will continue as at present, and that comparatively few Orientals will arrive in future. So far as this government can secure the carrying out in the future of the agreement which is now being rigidly adhered to, it will be done.

Mr. HUGHES. Then we are to understand from the minister that the plan was this: The gentleman who has made such a success of the North Atlantic Trading Company in bringing European immigrants to Canada, at so much a head, was translated

Mr. J. D. TAYLOR.

to the shores of Asia and the plan was that he was to send in these Oriental immigrants, Japanese, and Chinese, in large numbers, and it was then decided to construct this public building. Then the action of the people of British Columbia caused a change in the programme, but the building had gone on so far that the government decided to continue it to completion and have it ready so that in a year or two, when Japan chooses to send in her emigrants the building will be ready for use.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I hope my hon. friend did not assume that I said anything of the kind.

Mr. DANIEL. Would the minister give a comparative statement showing the cost of the immigration buildings at Victoria, Halifax, Quebec, and St. John, especially with regard to the number of hospital beds in each building. At the Atlantic ports thousands of immigrants come in every year and one would naturally expect that as much accommodation will be required at these ports as at Victoria. The buildings in St. John, Quebec, and Halifax are of wood, while the Victoria building is evidently of a much superior class.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I shall be glad to obtain that information and present it on a subsequent occasion. The building in St. John is quite a fine building and cost quite a sum of money. Plans have been prepared for the erection of an immigration building at Quebec which will be much more costly than the one proposed at Victoria.

Mr. DANIEL. The minister is not referring to the Martello hotel building?

Mr. PUGSLEY. That is a detention hospital.

Mr. BARNARD. I understand the minister to say that one reason for the erection of this building was that many immigrants were detained in Victoria. How many immigrants were detained in Victoria during the current year?

Mr. PUGSLEY. My statement was that undesirable immigrants might be detained under the law, and deported. In the meantime it is proper that they should be cared for. Although an immigration building or the hospital part of it might not be constantly required, a time might come when the hospital accommodation particularly might be required. I do not think any one would say that in a seaport of the importance of Victoria an immigration building is not desirable. It may be that when the requisition was made by the Department of the Interior a large number of Asiatic immigrants were coming in and that the plans were prepared more liberally than they would be to-day with the restricted immi-