

health of British Columbia, with which the people of British Columbia should deal.

Hon. Mr. PRIOR. Why adopt a different practice in Manitoba?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Because the lepers in Manitoba were immigrants who had come in through the departmental work of this government, and therefore this government was responsible for their presence in the country.

Hon. Mr. PRIOR. Is not the Dominion government responsible for the Chinese who come in to British Columbia?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, not more than for the Japanese or for the hon. gentleman himself, who were not brought in as immigrants by the department, but came in of their own accord.

Hon. Mr. PRIOR. What about the Lazaretto at Tracadie?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I need not go into the question of the responsibility of the Dominion government to the province of New Brunswick in this matter of the Lazaretto, because that is ancient history.

Hon. Mr. PRIOR. The excuse given by the hon. gentleman for his manner of dealing with British Columbia is a miserable subterfuge. I see no reason why the government should not, out of the \$200,000 and more paid into the Dominion treasury by the Chinese as head tax, take a sum sufficient to meet this expense. The hon. gentleman is mistaken in saying that the late government paid only one year. They paid two or three years, and the last year they did not refuse to pay, but had the question under discussion.

Mr. SPROULE. It is quite clear that this is a matter which comes under the charge of the Department of Agriculture, because that department has charge of the quarantine stations, and if these men were admitted, owing to insufficient inspection, the department should pay the cost of taking charge of them.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There is nothing to show that they had the disease when they passed through the quarantine.

Mr. SPROULE. That is a matter on which there is considerable room for doubt, and if these people were affected with leprosy when they came into the country, then they should have been kept in quarantine or sent home again, and if the department failed in its duty, this government ought to pay the cost.

Mr. ROSS (South Ontario). How many lepers are there in British Columbia?

Hon. Mr. PRIOR. Five or six in the Lazaretto.

Mr. ROSS (South Ontario). Is the number increasing?

Hon. Mr. PRIOR. It remains about the same. Occasionally one or two die and one or two others will come in.

Winnipeg and St. Boniface hospitals, \$4,000.

Mr. SPROULE. Are these ordinary hospitals or quarantine hospitals?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. One of these is for Protestants, and the other for Catholics, and this government contributes this amount because they take in immigrants who have no homes.

Mr. McCREARY. I think that this item ought to be increased by a further vote in the supplementaries. This is the same amount as was allowed these hospitals eight or ten years ago, when the number of patients was only half what it is now, and the cost of living was not so high. The maintenance of these institutions is a very heavy drain on the people of Winnipeg, St. Boniface and Manitoba generally, and a large number of the patients are immigrants just newly arrived. Last year one of the cases was that of a gentleman who was passing through from Japan, and who had to be taken to the hospital to be treated for a malignant attack of small-pox. The new wing, which the citizens of Winnipeg had put up at a cost of \$87,000 had just been opened and furnished, and the admission of this patient caused a great deal of damage and loss to that institution. The city corporation pays \$10,000 a year to the General Hospital, and the government of the province \$16,000 a year, I believe. The St. Boniface General Hospital, which is controlled by the sisters, and is equally a general hospital, because it admits Protestants as well as Catholics, it has a grant also from the province. This government should certainly give more to these institutions than it does, because the larger number of the patients are people who have only been in the country a short time, many of them merely passing through on their way to the coast. You would be surprised to know the percentage of the patients in that hospital who have not been in the country a year.

Mr. MONK. Is there any account kept of those immigrants who are merely passing through?

Mr. McCREARY. The report shows the number, and over 50 per cent of the people are patients who have not been in the country three years. I submit that this vote should be doubled and would ask the government to give my appeal their best consideration.

Mr. SPROULE. According to the decision of the minister in the previous case, this government would not pay anything, because these people had developed the disease