

down here, under the vote we are discussing, for services. Are they professional services? Of course I do not expect the hon. Minister to be prepared with details; but he can give an idea of the general nature of those services.

Mr. McLELAN. The details of that have not been submitted to me, but they can be given on Concurrence.

Mr. CASEY. Then there are professional services mentioned here, one of them a considerable amount, \$1,200.

Mr. McLELAN. That is at Winnipeg, for attendance on emigrants.

Mr. CASEY. I think this discussion has brought out one point of value. Although this vote was taken to promote the public health, nearly nothing of that kind has been done, so far as we can see. No precautionary measures have been taken, so far as we can make out. I think a vote for precautionary measures would be a highly proper one, but very little can be done with \$5,000. I hope that a good deal has been done with the vote for statistics, but unless those statistics are supplemented by direct measures of precaution, for which a vote should be taken sufficient to do something effectual, there is no doubt that in cases of the outbreak of epidemics, but very little can be done with so small an amount of money. I think the Government are quite justified in taking a vote large enough to do something substantial. I am aware the Provinces do much for this sort of work, but still there are many districts for which it is the duty of the Dominion Government to provide.

Mr. PLATT. The information given in regard to public health last Session was somewhat indefinite, and it is still more indefinite this Session. I understand from the Minister that several of the health officers have not yet reported. If so, the scheme adopted last year, and which has been carried out at the public expense, has, to a certain extent, at least, proved a failure. Are there any new plans about to be adopted whereby greater efficiency in this service can be secured. We know that deputations are now of frequent occurrence in this city. Various schemes have been proposed to the Government, and I should like to know if some other plan is to be pursued.

Mr. McLELAN. The Minister has not yet fully decided as to what course he may take in future; but he has acted, so far, largely under the advice of the medical societies of the Dominion, and has attempted, with their advice and co-operation, to establish a system for gathering statistics in regard to public health, such as will lead to precautionary measures being taken against disease. How far the plan adopted may prove successful, remains to be proved. The best possible plan will be adopted.

Mr. PLATT. I am afraid the Department has relied too much on medical associations and too little on themselves. We know that these associations meet once or twice a year during which the Department obtains information from them, but after those meetings the Department hears very little from them. I know the feeling in all Governments is to rely on the medical profession in all such matters and carry out what they suggest; and if a failure should occur, the medical men are ready to propose some new plan. If any such scheme is to be successful, the Government must take hold of it in a different manner. Some thorough plan must be organized—though I do not think it is yet decided to what extent the Dominion Parliament should extend their measures with respect to public health, and to what extent such duty devolves on Provincial Governments. As I understand it, this Parliament can do little more than gather statistics, and the practical measures are largely left to the Provincial Governments to carry out. The scheme carried on during the past year for collecting statistics and doing certain work, especially in Ontario, has been simply doing what was, in my opinion, very much better done by the Provincial

Mr. CASEY.

authorities. I cannot see that the money expended by this Parliament has done very much to add to the information gathered by the Provincial Board of Health. I hope, before Concurrence, the Minister of Agriculture will tell the Committee how much money will be spent during the coming year and what benefit he expects to derive from it.

Mr. McLELAN. The vote last year of \$20,000 has not all been expended, and the Minister proposes to ask for only \$15,000. The total amount expended last year is under \$3,000. The Minister was not able to get the system into operation to spend more money, but he hopes to expend a larger sum during the coming year, by having the system extended. The object in attempting to co-operate with the Medical Society was merely to restrain expenses. The proposition had been made by the medical societies to do certain work at merely nominal fees, and a scheme was prepared to co-operate with the Department; but how far it will be successful will be a matter of further experiment.

Mr. MILLS. The Minister tells us that the Government are simply carrying out the suggestions of some medical associations. There is no responsibility resting on those gentlemen; it rests with the Administration. While it may be proper and right to consult medical men and avail themselves of their services, they cannot shift the responsibility of the failure of any scheme on the medical gentlemen whose assistance they called in. The statement of the Minister is a very extraordinary one. Hon. gentlemen opposite obtained their present positions under the pretence that they were eminently competent and were able to find a solution for every question coming before them. Now, the Minister came forward and admitted that in this matter they were wholly incompetent and perfectly helpless; that they had again to call in medical men to say what they had better do. Then the Minister asked the advice of those gentlemen, acting on the assumption that if the system had not gone right, the medical men were responsible for it. That is not the ground on which hon. gentlemen opposite secured their positions on the Treasury Benches. The statements made to the people were of a different character. We know that the First Minister told the people that he was eminently qualified for the position of First Minister; that if he were just elected to the position of leader, supported by a majority of the people, prosperity would revive, people would become more industrious and confident than before. They now say we want this money set forth in the Estimates, and when they are asked to give some information, we ascertain, with a good deal of difficulty, that they were mistaken in the scheme. They now tell the House they are not responsible for the failure and that it was due to the medical men and not to them.

Mr. BERGIN. Once again the hon. gentleman opposite has discovered a mare's nest. He tells us that the Government know nothing about the expenditure. What are the facts? \$20,000 were voted last year for the collection of statistics and not a dollar has been spent, according to the Public Accounts. \$45,000 were voted last year for public health, quarantine and cattle diseases; and of this \$45,000, \$32,473.82 were spent by the Government, leaving unexpended \$12,527.

Mr. SPOULE. I think last year we had merely an initiation of the subject, and the trouble was that insufficient money was given for the purpose. During the present Session there has been a meeting of medical men in this House, and in harmony with them a number of medical men in the country, for the purpose of providing a scheme for more effectually carrying out the object, than those heretofore adopted. I think it must be acknowledged that the statistics as collected by the Provincial Governments are very unreliable and unsatisfactory at the present time. It was