

Ottawa, St. John, Charlottetown, Winnipeg and Quebec, and it was proposed to establish agencies at all other points to obtain returns from medical gentlemen connected with the medical society during the year, but only a very limited number of returns have been received during the past year. It was expected by the Minister that a public system would be established and maintained throughout the Dominion, but up to the present time he has not been very successful in getting returns from a very large number of medical gentlemen.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Do I understand that the chief object of this vote is the collection of statistics?

Mr. McLELAN. Yes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Because I notice in the Public Accounts of 1883 that, under the head of public health, there is a considerable expenditure, amounting to \$14,000, but it appears to have gone mostly to medical men. I do not see any item there for the collection of statistics at all. There is a large grant to the Winnipeg General Hospital, and then, apparently, payments to nine or ten medical men for professional services, such as attendance on sick immigrants, and all that kind of thing.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is separate from this. This is the \$5,000 which has been voted for several years.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It is for public health.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. To meet expenses of precautionary measures for public health.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am looking at the Public Accounts for 1883, in which precisely the self-same vote occurred, and immediately after the lazaretto, which is the item preceding, and immediately before the cattle quarantine, which is the item following, I find these items I refer to, and not one syllable is in that referring to the collection of statistics, at all. I think the hon. Minister must be confounding this with some other vote. I am referring to page 143 of the Public Accounts.

Mr. McLELAN. I think the hon. gentleman is naming the salaries of quarantine officers throughout the Dominion.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. No; the quarantine officers are quite distinct. The item of public health is under the head of Quarantine Service, between the item for the lazaretto and the item for cattle quarantine. There can hardly be any possibility, looking at the Estimates, of mistaking it.

Mr. McLELAN. The quarantine officers would come under the head of public health.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. But these are not quarantine officers. They are separately charged for. If the Minister will just look at the Public Accounts, he will see that this evidently does refer to the item under discussion.

Mr. McLELAN. This large item of \$10,487, forming part of that \$14,000, is a special sum.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I know that is a special sum. The minor items, however, refer to the public health.

Mr. McLELAN. The officers at Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, St. John, N.B., Charlottetown, and Quebec have all made returns, and have all been paid for them, but it is not found possible to commence the work of compilation from these returns until September. The information obtained from these cities will be published forthwith, and submitted.

Mr. WILSON. Who are the parties employed in these cities?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. They are the local Boards of Health.

Mr. McLELAN. They are the local officers in the cities. The system was suggested by the Medical Society, and it was upon their recommendation that the Boards undertook to do something in this respect.

Mr. WILSON. I understand that so far as they can conveniently, they utilize officers appointed by the Provincial Board.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The local Board.

Mr. WILSON. I think they are appointed under local legislation, forming local boards, and empowering municipalities to appoint health officers. I think it would be much better for the Dominion Government to co-operate with the various Local Governments and have a more efficient system of collecting those statistics. Virtually, we are unable to learn from the Minister to-night that any practical results have been obtained for these \$5,000. I am not complaining of the amount, but I do complain that the House is not in possession of full information as to the results obtained from the expenditure of this money.

Mr. McLELAN. I think I stated to the hon. gentleman that the reports would be published forthwith.

Mr. CASEY. There is one item here for 400 copies of Dr. Playter's Sanitary Journal. What is done with these copies?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I think the first vote of this kind was taken last Session, December twelve months. The leading physicians of the Dominion met in Ottawa and had a conference with the Minister of Agriculture, and the Minister of Railways and Canals was present. An arrangement was come to by which these medical gentlemen, on their return to their respective sections of the country, would induce the members of the Boards of Health to co-operate with the Minister of Agriculture in obtaining statistics. It was agreed by the Minister of Agriculture that the Board of Health in each city, where one existed, should nominate their officer, and the Government would pay him a sum in proportion to the population of the city where such board was established; and it was under that arrangement that this vote of last Session was expended in paying these local officers which were recommended by the local Boards of Health to the Government. These persons were employed and paid for the collection and forwarding to the Minister of Agriculture of statistics from that particular city. To a certain extent, that vote was an experiment.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I think if the Minister would look a little more carefully at vote No. 8, he will see that the explanations he has been giving has reference to a different vote. There is a vote of \$20,000 to meet expenses in connection with health statistics which comes under the head of agricultural statistics. Now, all the explanations that have been given are quite pertinent as regards that vote, and would be quite right if that was under discussion; and I think the Minister will see I am correct, and that this particular vote of \$5,000 is intended for a different purpose in statistics, that it is intended, as it was actually used in 1883, for defraying certain expenses in connection with hospitals. \$5,000 would go no distance at all collecting health statistics, which is an expensive subject; the \$20,000 which is asked for probably would go some distance.

Mr. CASEY. The hon. Minister has not yet told me what is done with these 400 copies of the Sanitary Journal.

Mr. McLELAN. They are sent to the health officers of the different cities, for distribution.

Mr. CASEY. Besides the expenditure on hospitals—some unnamed hospital, \$650—there are four or five parties pu-