

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Many years ago, I do not know exactly when.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Has he usually been paid in this way out of contingencies?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Every year for the last four years, at any rate.

Government of the North-west Territories—Insane patients ..... \$50,000

Mr. DAVIN. This sum, though voted for the North-west Territories, is really paid to Manitoba, is it not?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes, under the same regulations as formerly.

Mr. DAVIN. I think the time has come when the North-west Territories should be put in a position to deal with their own insane patients. Even from the point of view of economy, this should be done. We send, at great expense, insane patients from the North-west Territories to Manitoba. In the present stage of development of the North-west, I think this should be changed.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If it can be done in this way more economically than by establishing an asylum in the Territories, we had better continue it. Still, I agree with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) that, as a considerable amount of money is involved, the matter would be worth inquiring into.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Where are the patients sent to?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The asylum is at Brandon.

Mr. FOSTER. What do you pay for them?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. A dollar a day for each patient. Last year the amount paid was \$45,026.13. The average number of patients was 135.

Mr. DAVIS. I understand that it costs the Manitoba government only 54 cents a head to keep these insane patients.

Mr. BERGERON. They are quiet.

Mr. DAVIS. That does not make any difference. The Manitoba government gets a dollar for what only costs them fifty-four cents.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). A dollar a day seems a heavy rate, but if we attempted to run an asylum of our own in the North-west Territories, it is probable \$50,000 would not cover the maintenance. The present arrangement is better, if the price is reasonable.

Mr. FOSTER. The probability is that in the fifty-four cents a day, the cost of the establishment is not taken into consideration—merely maintenance and medical attendance.

Mr. J. G. RUTHERFORD (Macdonald). That is quite true—the cost of the building

Mr. MONTAGUE.

and the establishment is not included. This is simply the cost of maintenance.

Mr. MONTAGUE. May I ask the minister whether the insane patients are all provided for at public expense, or whether their friends pay for them when they are able?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. My deputy informs me that the government pays for all of them.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think the time has come when the public should be relieved of a part of that burden. In the province of Ontario, when the patient has property or his friends are able to pay for him, he is not a charge on the public.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). Practically he is. I have had some cases come to my notice, where the friends of patients had property and were well able to pay, but they declined to do so, and the state had to take care of the patient in the public interest.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The minister must be mistaken in the majority of cases. There is no question that people who are able to pay do have to pay for the maintenance of patients I know, because, I have examined a large number of patients who were sent to the asylum, and a regular form has to be gone through, and affidavits made, and evidence brought as to the ability to pay.

Mr. CLANCY. The Postmaster General is wrong. In the province of Ontario, there is case after case where the patients or their friends are liable if they are able to pay.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I am aware of no law that will make the relatives pay for the maintenance of the patient. Whilst the law may reach the estate of a lunatic, to pay for his maintenance in the asylum, there is no law that I am aware of that can reach the estate of the friends of a lunatic.

Mr. DAVIN. In the Auditor General's Report, page H-26, I notice several cases where the North-west Mounted Police charge various sums for conducting insane patients to Brandon. I say it is not good economy to send insane patients such a long distance. After all, this is North-west money, and it ought to be spent in the North-west Territories. Now that the population is increasing so rapidly, the government should consider whether the time has not come to arrange for the care and maintenance of the insane at a central point in the Territories.

Grant for schools, clerical assistance, printing, &c., to be paid half-yearly in advance ..... \$332,979

Mr. DAVIN. In regard to this item, I am not going to take up the time of the committee protesting against it as too small. At an early period of the session, I have expressed my opinion, that it is quite inadequate.