

not keep and who were undesirable immigrants, as many of them were diseased. The examination of these people was a matter for health officers. I think it is for this reason that these health officers have been put on. And they have stopped scores and scores of people from landing in Canada who otherwise would have remained here and become a charge upon the people of British Columbia. People come from Japan who are troubled with trachoma, also from China, and people perhaps who would not be kept out by the \$500 tax. They come from Australia also. Now, we in British Columbia must receive protection against these diseased immigrants, and I say that if an officer of the department succeeds in keeping one such man out of the country, his services are worth all the money that we pay him. I am not defending an excessive expenditure, but I do say that for the past six months the people of the Pacific coast have been protected better than ever from an influx of the offscouring of humanity.

Mr. OSLER. The statement just made by the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. Macpherson) shows that there is somewhere a record of the work done by these officers, men who were appointed before an estimate for their salary was brought down in this last week of the session. It appears from the statement just made by the hon. member from Vancouver that these men have been drawing pay for the past six months. Now, if they have been appointed illegally by this government, surely the House is entitled to more than a vague statement to the effect that they have been instrumental in keeping people out diseased with trachoma. Surely there ought to be some record of the work these men have done, surely the government must have a statement on which to base the appointment of these men six months ago. As to the statement that diseased immigrants are coming in, I must say that I have been in pretty close touch with what is going on in the shipping world at Vancouver, and I have never yet heard of one case of trachoma coming in on the Pacific coast.

Mr. FOSTER. When were these men appointed?

Mr. OLIVER. Their salary began on the 1st of May this year.

Mr. FOSTER. When the House was in session. Well, that is another example of a certain way of doing things—appoint your men first, set up an establishment costing \$6300, and then, when you get it nicely going, come and ask parliament for money to pay for it. The minister has not given us a figure, he has no information in his pocket or in his head, he cannot tell the port from which one immigrant comes, or how many came in. We know very well that the stream of immigration does not come in from that side. Ships are coming in to every port of the Dominion, and is the

Mr. MACPHERSON.

minister going to keep an officer in every port because perhaps some man will come in with a cross eye, or may have some trace of disease about him?

Mr. OLIVER. Vancouver is an important port.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. Macpherson) has told you that if you keep out one diseased man you have the worth of all your money. But now the whole thing is out. It is a mere matter of patronage, in order to appoint men and pay them salaries, without any warrant from this parliament at all, no stream of immigration that warrants it, where you have health officers, provincial and otherwise, where you have a quarantine department, manned by this government, where you have another department costing from \$2,000 to \$3,000—you have all these things, and yet the money which is supposed to go to bring immigrants into this country is put to uses like that.

Mr. OLIVER. I think those of us who were here last session of parliament, and heard the discussion on the complaints with regard to the admission of immigrants into Canada afflicted with diseases which were not quarantinable—I say those of us who remember that discussion, showing a general agreement on both sides of the House, will think that sufficient has been established to justify the appointment of these two officers. There is a quarantine establishment at Victoria under the control of the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of keeping out certain classes of disease and taking stringent measures to that end. It was not against those diseases that complaint was made in the House last session, it was against diseases of an entirely different character, and it was thought that the interest of the public required that these diseases should be guarded against as well as those which were quarantinable. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) finds fault because I am not able to give him a statement of where the immigrants come from, how many have arrived, and how many have been excluded by reason of this provision. His complaint might be reasonable if this system had been in operation for a considerable length of time. But the facts are evident, Victoria and Vancouver are the only ocean ports on the Pacific coast, and to those ports come traffic and travel from every other port on the Pacific coast. Under these circumstances, if there is any port in Canada that should be protected against the introduction of that class of disease against which those complaints were made last session, then Victoria and Vancouver are those ports above all others. The volume of immigration is not the question. The possibility of the introduction of disease is the question, and there is no question that at these two ports Canada stands in the greatest danger of the intro-