

Mr. PUGSLEY. It is an immigration building of the ordinary character. The building is two-stories, fireproof, built of brick with stone foundation, and the object is to prove facilities for medical inspection, hospital accommodation and for the other services connected with the handling of immigrants. There are a good many people coming to Victoria. They come from the Orient, they come from the cities along the United States coast and they require care.

Mr. BARR. I thought the Orientals were all shut out?

Mr. PUGSLEY. There are always some coming, and in the future there will be some coming, but there are a good many people coming from the coast cities. The information we had before this building was undertaken was that there was a necessity in Victoria for an immigration building.

Mr. BARNARD. Who made the request for this building?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The Department of Immigration.

Mr. BARNARD. Cannot the minister state what the necessity is in view of the fact that the government tells us that Oriental immigration is shut off?

Mr. PUGSLEY. As I have said, there are a good many in addition to oriental immigration, which has undoubtedly fallen now to small proportions, but which was larger when this building was undertaken. There is a very considerable immigration from United States ports.

Mr. BARNARD. Can the minister give us any idea as to the number of those during the past year?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I am sorry to say I cannot, because this is not a new work. It was undertaken and a vote was given last parliament for it.

Mr. BARNARD. Could the minister tell us what volume of immigration this building is to cover?

Mr. PUGSLEY. The most I can do is to give my hon. friend the size of the building. It has a frontage of 98 feet on Ontario street by a depth of 35 feet, and it extends along Dallas street 91 feet with a depth of 45 feet. It is a two-story building with basement, and there are in the building a waiting room, large dining room, detention room, two rooms for guards, two rooms for medical officers, two rooms for United States officers, two rooms for clerks and also some other rooms such as closets, lavatories, &c. There are a surgery and six hospital wards in the building.

Mr. HUGHES. Where were the plans drawn?

Mr. BARNARD.

Mr. PUGSLEY. They were prepared by the department.

Mr. HUGHES. As skilfully as the plans for the extension of this building?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I presume so.

Mr. HUGHES. They could not be any worse.

Mr. BARNARD. I must confess to a certain amount of ignorance as to what a building of that kind is designed to cover, and, if possible, I should like to know where my hon. friend expects his immigrants from who are to use this building apart from Asiatic immigration, and what number of immigrants he is erecting the building to accommodate?

Mr. PUGSLEY. My hon. friend must see that it would be quite impossible to tell how many immigrants are coming to Victoria. One week there may be 500 and another week there may be 50.

Mr. BARNARD. That, of course, is not an answer to the question I asked. I assume that the Department of Public Works, when they authorized the expenditure for this building, had in view some certain capacity, or a building that would accommodate a certain volume of immigration during the year, and that is what I would like the hon. minister to let us know.

Mr. HERRON. I understood my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior a year ago to say that there were no immigrants coming from that direction except Asiatics.

Mr. PUGSLEY. My information is that in addition to the immigrants coming in from Asiatic countries there is a considerable number coming in from United States ports. There are daily steamers arriving from Seattle, Tacoma, and other United States Sound ports. With regard to the accommodation, as far as the hospital part is concerned, there is provision for 134 beds in the various wards.

Mr. BARNARD. That would mean that you could put up 134 people per day?

Mr. PUGSLEY. 134 people, if they were ill.

Mr. BARNARD. And, in addition to that, I suppose a large number of others?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I suppose so.

Mr. BARNARD. This question cut a very considerable figure in the discussion which preceded the election in October last. While the Minister of Public Works tells the House that this building was asked for by the Immigration Department, and while in this House last year the asking for this building was repudiated by the then member for Victoria (Mr. Templeman) I might tell the House that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Templeman) publish-