

Mr. McLELAN. They are all inspected a day or two previous to their arrival at St. Thomas. They are only a day or two on the train, and during that time it is not probable that a disease will break out.

Mr. WILSON. I should like to know what are the duties of this caretaker at St. Thomas?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. To take care of the cattle.

Mr. WILSON. I should suppose the shippers would see to the performance of that duty.

Mr. McLELAN. He has to see that the regulations respecting the transport of cattle are carried out at that point.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. To see that they get the necessary food, rest and water.

Mr. WILSON. This man has been acting, then, under false pretences. He has assumed the duties of Government Inspector, and is so regarded.

Mr. McLELAN. He is an inspector of all the regulations. While he may not be a scientific man, with respect to the diseases of cattle, yet he is an inspector of the transport of cattle, to see that the regulations are carried out.

Mr. WILSON. Then he has no duties at all in reference to disease, and if any disease should occur, he has nothing to do with it. He has no right to prohibit cattle being shipped on account of disease.

Mr. McLELAN. No.

Mr. DESJARDINS. I see an amount of \$5,000 for public health. That question is exciting attention more and more in our midst. This morning there was a strong deputation of medical men asking for a grant towards a publication that would enlighten the people as to the hygienic measures to be taken for the public health. Unfortunately, the hon. Minister was sick and could not attend to that deputation. I hope, however, the Government will consider the matter, and see what they can do towards extending the attention of the people in that direction.

Mr. BAKER. With regard to the quarantine station at Victoria, there is a reduction of \$100, and that at Vancouver Island is erased. Will the hon. Minister explain this?

Mr. McLELAN. The item, \$1,700, last year was a supplementary vote for Victoria, where the quarantine was established, and the vote for Vancouver, therefore, is not required. It was changed last year in the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. BAKER. I wish to take this opportunity of stating that it has come to my knowledge that, contrary to the representations of my colleague and myself in favour of having this quarantine station at Albert Head, where there is every facility for it and which is within easy distance of Royal Roads, it is the intention to place it at Plumper Bay, Esquimalt Harbour. This appears to me to be anything but the correct thing to do. To get inside Esquimalt Harbour, you have to pass a very narrow entrance; you have to thread the needle, so to speak, through all the shipping, passing about a mile and a quarter inside, where all the men-of-war are at anchor, to get into Plumper Bay. I would like to know on whose recommendation this decision has been arrived at, and to take this opportunity of placing on record my protest against this selection, as it is not a fit place for the quarantine station, and I wish to be held blameless in the matter.

Mr. BAIN. I would ask the hon. Minister whether the cattle quarantine at Halifax is in active operation, and to what extent it is availed of?

Mr. McLELAN. The cattle imported by way of Halifax are quarantined there the usual time.

Mr. WILSON.

Mr. BAIN. The reason I ask is, not that I am disposed to find fault with the station, but a gentleman from that station, General Laurio, seemed to be unaware there was a quarantine station there in active operation. I understood him to say they had to import by way of Quebec.

Mr. McLELAN. The facilities for keeping them at Halifax are not yet very good, and they are taken charge of by the quarantine officers and kept separate and guarded until they reach Quebec, where there is every means of caring for a large number.

Mr. CASEY. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what precaution has been taken to prevent the importation of diseased cattle into the North-West, for ranching purposes.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There has been no disease.

Mr. McLELAN. There has been none in the North-West.

Mr. CASEY. It might be well to have some inspection.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). I should like if some hon. member of the Government would pay me the courtesy of giving me an answer to the question which I put, as to who gave the recommendation on which the place for the quarantine hospital was changed at Victoria.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That will be enquired into before Concurrence. The hon. gentleman having asked the question, of course he will get an answer, and before Concurrence he will be informed what are the grounds why this particular place has been selected.

Mr. McLELAN. I understand it was mainly on the recommendation of the Admiral of the fleet, to Sir Alexander Campbell, while he was there. He is supposed to be an authority on such matters.

Mr. BAKER. That gives rise to a very nice point. What has the Admiral to do with my constituency. I have made certain recommendations to the Government, and I have taken a good deal of trouble about it. I went down there with my colleague to see if Albert Head would be a place to be approved of, and a recommendation has been made to the Department recommending Albert Head as the most suitable of all places; and then, in face of all this, supported, I believe, by the Dominion Government agent, I find that an alteration has been made, which has caused delay, for the quarantine hospital has not been gone on with, and I am told, forsooth, that it has been done on the recommendation of the Admiral. I should like to know what the Admiral has to do with the district of Victoria. I believe I represent the people in that part of the world, and I should like my recommendation attended to, or some very good reasons given why it is not.

Mr. McLELAN. We will get the explanations for you.

Mr. WILSON. I should like some detailed statement as to the \$5,000 which is asked for the public health. I hear an hon. member say it has stood for several years. If that is so, we would like some explanation, we would like to know the results of the expenditure.

Mr. McLELAN. Under the head of public health, there are statistics gathered, mortuary statistics and otherwise. I believe the expenditure has not been very large, but it is considered necessary to take a vote to cover any expenditure which may arise, and the expenses which must necessarily follow the collection of mortuary statistics.

Mr. WILSON. Will the Minister explain to me the method by which those statistics are obtained?

Mr. McLELAN. Agencies have been established at a number of the principal towns, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton,