

Magnitude of the Task.

When the number of persons cared for in the asylums, gaols and hospitals and the other institutions classified as charitable is considered, it will be seen what an enormous task the Government has assumed in providing for their comfort and maintenance.

Since 1867, \$7,926,629.09 were expended by the Government on the erection, equipment and furnishing of public institutions and of lockups. Of that sum only \$772,190.50 was expended prior to 1872. From this it appears that the generous accommodation which the Province provided in respect to all these institutions is owing to the forethought and business capacity of the different Liberal Governments.

Increase of Patients and Inmates.

The following shows the increase in the number of patients in the Asylum for Feeble-Minded at Orillia, and in the Asylums for the Insane at London, Toronto, Mimico, Hamilton, Brockville and Kingston, and the cost of maintenance at stated intervals:—

	Patients under treatment.	Total cost year ending Sept. 30.
1872.....	1,717	\$187,719
1877.....	2,390	281,844
1882.....	3,288	368,683
1887.....	3,553	415,330
1892.....	4,785	544,580
1897.....	5,712	605,788
1901.....	5,949	623,675

Comparative Cost Between Ontario and Other Countries.

An examination of the returns from the various public institutions in the United States and other countries furnishes a comparison of a most favorable character in the cost of management of the institutions in Ontario, as the following figures will prove:

Asylums.

COST PER PATIENT.

	Yearly.
Three Michigan Asylums, 1898 to 1900.....	\$178.35
Six New York Asylums, 1898 to 1900.....	205.24
Two Indiana Asylums, 1900.....	136.13
Eight Massachusetts Asylums, 1898.....	160.48
One Illinois Asylum, 1898.....	151.07

BUILD UP ONTARIO