

of dollars to maintain a department and it has not kept a record of an immigrant that has come in from the western coast.

Mr. OLIVER. I am not able to give at the moment, the record for three months. But, as I have said, provision is made for the reception and treatment of immigrants at the port of Vancouver, not so much because of the volume of immigration, but because that is a point to which immigration comes from all the countries bordering on the Pacific ocean.

Mr. FOSTER. Who comes? How many of them?

Mr. OLIVER. We have the returns of the officer we have recently sent, and I cannot give the figures at the moment. What has been done is in response, as I understand it, to a strongly expressed wish of the House that the ports of Canada should be effectually guarded against any introduction of disease by immigrants, and not with a view to the total number of immigrants.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the total amount of salary it is proposed to pay?

Mr. OLIVER. For the port, \$6,300.

Mr. FOSTER. Would it not be well for us to take a sensible view of these matters for a moment. The minister proposes to provide a six thousand dollar establishment in Vancouver and Victoria for medical examination of immigrants, and he has not in his department a record showing that a single immigrant comes into these ports. Would it not be a sensible way to have a customs officer, or some other officer enumerate the immigrants who come in? This officer could be called upon for further information if any immigrants did come. In that way you could find out whether such immigrants were coming as to make a medical inspection necessary or not. But that way does not suit the minister, nor is it in accordance with the traditions of the department. According to these traditions, we are to rush into an expenditure of \$6,300 before it can be shown that there is any need for the expenditure of a dollar.

Mr. OSLER. Is the medical inspection made on the vessels that come in?

Mr. OLIVER. It is made at the wharf.

Mr. OSLER. There is a health officer there already.

Mr. OLIVER. There is a quarantine establishment, but that is not under control of this department. This department deals with diseases that are not quarantinable diseases.

Mr. OSLER. In all my recollection of debates in connection with keeping out undesirable immigrants, I do not think that Victoria or the Pacific coast ports were mentioned once. There is no immigration com-

ing into Vancouver, or into Victoria—there are no lines of immigrant vessels. This government pays a health officer there; and, if the minister would refer to the other department, whichever it is, that pays that officer, he could find out how many diseased persons were stopped at that port, and that would be valuable information in connection with this item. But it seems utterly absurd to appoint two doctors, a superintendent and two clerks to stop a possible immigration at points as to which the government cannot show that one single immigrant comes in. And, if there is anything in this line to be done, I will be bound that the health officer has ample time to do it.

Mr. INGRAM. The First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) told us the other day that three Chinamen came into Vancouver, and we passed certain votes to assist in looking after this immigration. So, this must be in addition to any other expenditure in connection with Vancouver and Victoria.

Mr. FOSTER. That had slipped my mind. I remember that we had a conversation about an expensive staff appointed in connection with a possible Chinese immigration. So, you have a quarantine establishment with an up-to-date outfit and an expensive staff; you have the staff in connection with Chinese immigration and expensive officers connected with it; and here is another expensive establishment at points at which, so far as the minister can tell us, there is not a single immigrant coming in. But this is just a sample case of what we meet in these estimates. And I will have to do in this case what I will have to do in others. I move to strike out \$6,300 of this vote inasmuch as the minister has not shown any need for this expenditure at Vancouver and Victoria.

Mr. MACPHERSON. I may be able to throw a little light upon the necessity of having these health officers in Vancouver and Victoria. The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler) said that there was no immigration going into British Columbia.

Mr. FOSTER. No, I never said that.

Mr. MACPHERSON. But I understood the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler) to say that.

Mr. OSLER. I said there was no immigration—no volume of immigration. I said there were no steamship lines. Of course, immigrants may come in occasionally in the ordinary ships. But, as a matter of fact, Vancouver is not an immigrant port.

Mr. MACPHERSON. We have a great many people coming into Vancouver and Victoria who come from the Asiatic side of the Pacific, from Australia, from the north and from the south. Further, we were made a dumping ground by American steamboats companies who left upon our shores many people whom the United States would