

I am sorry, however, to say, Mr. Speaker, that as regards our asylums for insane and idiots, we have not so satisfactory a showing. From the first year of Confederation there has been a steady and continuous increase, not only in regard to applications for admission, but applications for increased accommodation. Almost every session large sums have been voted for increasing that accommodation, and on frequent occasions the hope has been not unnaturally expressed that this accommodation would be sufficient to overtake the demands for years to come. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, that expectation has not been borne out. No sooner were additional buildings erected than they were filled to overflowing, and yet the applications for admission were as great as ever. Until lately it was believed that this increased demand for accommodation was due to a large extent to the greater confidence on the part of the people in the management of the institutions. This to a large extent was true, and is still operative, but another idea seems to be taking hold of the public mind, that insanity itself is actually on the increase. That seems to be the belief not only in Canada but in the United States and Great Britain, and this may to some extent account for the increased demand for accommodation, but statistics in Ontario and the United States point to the belief that there is something more bearing in the same direction, and that is, the character of our immigrants from the older world: that due care has not always been taken as to the nature and character of the people brought out, and in many cases it is believed that immigration has almost been a direct transfer from the immigrant ship to the asylum. Let me read from the last report of the Superintendent of the Toronto Asylum:

"It is worthy of note in this connection that a large number of our admissions during the year consisted of patients who are foreign born and many of them recently imported. Their number is out of all proportion to the native born, and there is a strong suspicion in my mind that Canada is becoming a 'dumping-ground' for the defective classes of the fatherland. An enquiry in this direction of an official nature would doubtless be of service to the country. For example, it is found that out of the 165 patients of last year's admission, ninety-two were of foreign birth and only seventy-three of Canadian birth. It is safe to say that the next census of 1891 will show a very large preponderance of native population over that