

and showing also the number of days each lunatic was detained in the gaol. The number of buildings now under construction for the accommodation of the insane. The number they are expected to accommodate, and when the buildings will be ready for use. He pointed out that according to the last report of the inspectors the number of lunatics in the asylums at London, Hamilton, Toronto and Orillia was 3,384, the number of applications on hand at date was 241, and the number of lunatics confined in the county gaols was 116. He thought that these circumstances showed that the Government was not doing its duty towards the insane. The confinement of insane persons in gaols during the early stages of the disease was inadvisable, because it was known that it was in the early stages of insanity that treatment was most likely to effect a cure. The extension of the accommodation by means of cottages surrounded by farms would furnish additional accommodation and also provide employment for those persons of unsound mind who were able to work.

Hon. A. S. HARDY said that no Province had been so abreast of the times as Ontario in caring for the insane, and yet it was perhaps true that they had not found accommodation for all.

#### THE GREAT DIFFICULTY

had been, and probably would be, that there had been admitted to the asylums a large number of the chronic and harmless insane, who probably should have been confined in the localities where they resided in the houses of refuge, poorhouses, and industrial farms. In the Northern States every district or county had at least some accommodation beside the gaols. In Ontario there were such institutions in only a few counties, and most of these persons, though harmless and needing only that care which but for poverty could be given at home, found refuge in the asylums. They were usually pretty long lived, and they occupied that room in the asylum which should be given to cases of a different kind. He did not know whether they would be able to revolutionise this state of things. Probably the measure of what Ontario could do, keeping in view the question of expense, would be the erection of a large asylum, into which could be drafted say 1,000 of these cases of

#### CHRONIC, HARMLESS INSANITY.

An institution of this kind would probably require fewer guards and less medical attendance than an ordinary lunatic asylum. Another plan would be to use one of the old asylums for this purpose, and to allow any new accommodation to take the modern form of cottages. There were no persons of unsound mind confined in gaols, and there were others on whose behalf applications had been made, and there was no doubt disappointment on account of the lack of accommodation. On March 1st last there were in the four asylums of Ontario 2,879 persons, or including those confined in the Asylum for Idiots at Orillia, 3,190. There was room in all for 28 more persons. There were at the same date in the gaols, 98 persons of unsound mind. It was an unfortunate thing that for persons taken suddenly with insanity there was no resource but the gaols. But this state of things would probably always exist, for there would always be violent lunatics, persons of murderous or suicidal tendencies, who required instant confinement, and you could not have an asylum in every locality. In many cases the gaols, though of course not the best places for lunatics, were better than the homes from which they came. Confining an insane person in a gaol was one way of opening the doors of the asylum to them, the

magistrates and county judges having power to send them there. Of those persons who were confined in the gaols as lunatics, a percentage were of that class who should not be admitted to the asylums, who should be attended at home, or by the local authorities. Then there were 326 applicants, making in all 424 persons said to be of unsound mind and outside of the walls of the asylums. Now, as to the provision which was being made. The new building at Hamilton would accommodate 150—that is to say, the portion which was to be proceeded with at once, for when the building was complete it would accommodate 300. Provision was being made in the Orillia asylum for 200 patients, so that in a year and a half they would have accommodation for about 500 more. A good deal had been said about

#### THE INCREASE OF INSANITY.

but there was misapprehension on this point. Insanity had perhaps increased too rapidly, but in a great measure the appearance of an increase was due to this, that as fast as the accommodation was increased the previously existing demand for accommodation became known. Probably there was a tendency on the part of examining physicians and magistrates to accelerate or facilitate the introduction of persons into the asylums, and so it happened that people were admitted merely to give relief to their families. Dr. Foster Pratt, a well-known alienist had made a calculation of the amount of insanity in various countries. In the Northern States he stated the propor-

tion to be 1 to 597, in the southern States 1 to 660, in the Territories 1 to 743. These figures did not show that insanity was most prevalent in the northern States and least prevalent in the Territories. They were simply a result of the well-known fact that in the Territories the accommodation for the insane was the least, in the Northern States it was the greatest; there were not more insane people there, but

#### MORE INSANE PEOPLE ACCOMMODATED

in public institutions. In Ontario the percentage could not be assumed at less than 1 to 600. On a population of 2,100,000 this would give 3,500, leaving about 600 to be provided for, there being in the asylums in 1886 2,899 persons. Dr. Clark estimated the number of insane in Ontario at 3,200, which would give 1 in 656, a proportion considerably less than in the northern States. The chronic and incurable cases in the Ontario asylum were accumulating at the rate of 60 per cent. of the admissions. Ninety-five per cent. of the inmates of the Toronto Asylum were of this class.

Mr. WILEY, who was heard indistinctly in the reporters' gallery, was understood to mention one or two cases in his own experience, in which there had been great delay in admitting to the asylums patients who could not pay their way. Though doubtless there was a great temptation to admit those who could pay where the choice was given, he thought the Government should see to it that these delays, as far as possible, were avoided. This should be done, especially in view of the number of unfortunates who were in gaol on charges of lunacy. Instead of sending the chronic patients to asylums, this class should be sent to an institution to be established where they could be employed in farming operations. Room could thus always be found for the acute cases.

Mr. MEACHAM quoted an American authority that in five States, including idiots, there was one of unsound mind to three hundred of the population. In nine cases of which he had heard four of those who were sent to the asylum at once on their diseased mental state being discovered, were now