

The average yearly cost per patient in these 78 asylums is \$227 88. The average cost per patient in our asylums was for the year 1893 \$135 71. Deducting the revenue received from paying patients, our average was only \$119 67 per patient, or not much more than half the cost in these 78 similar institutions in the United States. In the State of Massachusetts there are five asylums similar to ours, and in them the average yearly cost per patient is \$334 13, or two and a half times as much as our average. In New York State the average yearly cost per patient in the eight asylums is \$345 83; and in Ohio, with its six asylums, it is \$227 88. Our average cost per week for each patient for asylum maintenance is \$2 66. In the New York State hospitals for the insane the cost averaged for three years per week has been \$5 18, or nearly twice as much as ours. The average cost per week for each patient in 76 asylums in the United States has been \$4 13, or 50 per cent more than ours. The cost per week in the Montreal Hospital for the Insane has been \$3 42, or 30 per cent more than ours. The cost in similar institutions in England averaged over a long period of years has been \$2 92 per week. New South Wales has five institutions like ours, and the average cost there per week for a long number of years has been \$3 73. Our officials, one and all, well understand that every account rendered, even the smallest, will be subject to the closest scrutiny. The inspectors, men of wide experience and practical knowledge, acquaint themselves with minutest de-

tails, and are thus constantly in a position to insist that there shall be in the matter of the purchase of supplies neither waste nor extravagance. As the wholesale dealers testify, our bursars take advantage of the keen competition existing in all branches of trade, and thus secure the best bargains available. Considering the excellent, wholesome and nutritious dietary which we furnish, the per capita cost of maintenance is, all must admit, surprisingly low. In all cases where practicable, and where it can be done with advantage to the Province, the supplies for the public institutions are purchased by tender.

FUBLIC BUILDINGS.

We have a still more striking illustration of uncontrollable expenditures when we come to consider the large sums we have spent in recent years, especially the last four or five years, on public buildings. We spent in 1892, for example, on new buildings, including these new Parliament buildings, \$778,315, and this amounts to more than one-fifth of all our expenditures for that year. For several years past our expenditures under this head have been unusually large. During the last five years we have spent in this way \$3,167,656. During the previous five years we spent \$1,479,634. Not a dollar of this expenditure was ever questioned, either in this House or in any committee of this House. There has been no want of opportunity for full inquiry and thorough investigation. In each instance it was recognized that our urgent needs called for the erection of new buildings, and that any further delay would be inexcusable and against the public interest. The work was commenced in each case not one day too soon. To meet pressing needs we commenced the erection of the main building and the eight asylum cottages at Mimico in November, 1888. These were completed in March, 1891. In June, 1891, the erection of two additional cottages for refractory patients was commenced, and these were finished in April, 1892. Up to the end of 1893 we had expended on these new buildings, which furnish excellent accommodation for 600 patients, the large sum of \$535,760. The Province owns in connection with these buildings a valuable plot of ground containing 57 acres. In 1885 we commenced the erection at Orillia of two cottages, with kitchen and outbuildings, for the accommodation of idiots. These were completed in 1887. The main front building and dining hall were commenced in 1889 and completed in 1891. These buildings furnish perfect accommodation for 600 patients, and their cost up to December, 1893, is \$181,722. We own 150 acres of land in connection with this institution. In October, 1892, we commenced to build a new asylum at Brockville. One part of this, namely, the main building, will, we expect, be completed this year. It will, when finished, accommodate 500 patients. We gave \$15,000 for the farm of 150 acres adjoining Brockville on which it is built. Up to the end of 1893 we have expended on this new asylum \$112,823. As to all of these buildings, tenders were called for, and the contracts let in the usual way—I mean, of course, Mr. Speaker, the usual way as far as this Province is concerned—the buildings have been completed, and no question is now raised, or has ever been raised, in this House as to the character of the buildings, their adaptability to our business needs, or as to their cost. Every member in this House must admit that the Commissioner of Public Works

succeeded in erecting these large buildings, which are a credit to the Province, at, all things considered, a marvellously low cost, and that, as a result of his skilful management, mastery of details, careful supervision and firm control, tens of thousands of dollars have been saved to the Province. This large, wealthy and important Province is now well equipped in the matter of public buildings, and we will be pardoned, in these days, at any rate, when we recall with pride and satisfaction the undisputed and indisputable fact that in their erection not one dollar of our very large appropriations has ever been diverted from its proper purpose. To meet well-defined and pressing public wants in this direction a largely-increased expenditure was imperatively needed. To speak at large in a general, heedless and irresponsible way of increased expenditures, to make nebulous insinuations of extravagance, and to keep carefully out of sight such explanations as I am hurriedly giving, is, I submit, neither honest nor patriotic. These new asylums to which I have referred and the new Parliament buildings have cost us, up to the end of 1893, \$2,400,596. Most of the money has been spent during this very Parliament, and yet not one minute of the time of this House or of any committee of this House has been spent in discussing this vast expenditure of money, or of any part of it. In considering these questions we must not forget that the statute which provided for the erection of new Parliament buildings set apart for sale certain lands, the proceeds when sold to form the Parliament buildings construction fund. One of the parcels of land so set apart was the site of the old Parliament buildings, 9 1/2 acres in extent, situate in the heart of this city. Owing to the marked depression in real estate we have not sold this very valuable property, worth say \$500,000. We have erected these new buildings without borrowing a single dollar, and still own very valuable properties, which the Legislature authorized us to sell, the proceeds of which, it was expected, would go a long way towards the erection of the new buildings. Another of these properties, consisting of 21 3/5 acres part of the asylum farm, and valued at \$150,000, is still unsold. I wish to remind the House that in these two properties alone the Province has a valuable asset, estimated to be worth \$650,000. (Applause.)

EXPENDITURE FOR AGRICULTURE.

No one will learn with disappointment that our expenditures under the head of agriculture and arts are constantly increasing year by year. We spent, for example, \$127,906 in 1890, \$149,535 in 1891, \$167,282 in 1892 and \$169,573 in 1893. No one in the House or out of it, so far as I know, ever complained of these increases. All the conditions of successful farming, indeed all economic conditions, have so changed in recent years that agricultural problems, at no time as simple or easy as the majority of people seem to imagine, are now especially complicated and puzzling. The successful solution of these problems means everything for this Province. Agriculture is, and must always be, the very basis of our prosperity; and for this reason our people will continue to approve of and demand liberal grants in its aid, and will encourage, in any and every form, the dissemination of useful information pertaining to agriculture. I am sure it will be conceded that there has always been manifested on the part of this Government an earnest desire to aid and encourage in every way possible every branch of agriculture. It will also be conceded that the Minister of Agriculture has been successful in many ways in increasing the usefulness of his very important department. But I desired especially to speak of increased expenditures and to point out that they were both justifiable and unavoidable, and in nearly every instance made with the consent and approval of the whole House. I will speak of some of the more important increases in this department made during the last four or five years. The Department of Agriculture was created in 1888, and this involved, amongst other things, sundry new departmental expenses, such as printing, stationery, postage, etc., amounting to about \$1,700 a year.

Mr. Clancy—Was that expenditure consented to on this side of the House?

The Treasurer—Does my hon. friend also intend to move for the abolition of the Agricultural Department? I welcome the interruption of my hon. friend as a sure indication of his defeat at the coming elections. (Loud Ministerial applause.) No objection was taken to the creation of the department by any member of the House, all conceded that the change was desirable and in the best interests of the Province. I am not forgetting that recently the President of the Young Men's Conservative Club of this city, in his inaugural address delivered in November, 1892, pronounced against the Department of Agriculture and contended that it would be in the best interests of the Province, as well as true economy, to do