

this over-expenditure. Indeed, sir, I fear that he may, as is his custom, ask for still more liberal aid for purposes of agriculture. He would have been able to keep well within the appropriation if he had not found it absolutely necessary to expend the large sum of \$19,289 in his attempts to check the pest known to nurserymen as the San Jose scale. Hon. members will doubtless during the session review with some detail our expenditures under this head, and therefore in my general survey I need not at present say more about them.

An over-expenditure also appears under the head of education. About one-fifth of all our expenditures is devoted to the work of aiding our schools and increasing their usefulness. (Cheers.) Last year's expenditure was the largest as yet in the history of the Province. We spent \$15,000 more than we did last year, \$73,000 more than we did five years ago, and \$156,000 more than we did ten years ago—a very considerable increase, Mr. Speaker, illustrating once again the fact that the growing needs of a growing Province demand from time to time increased expenditures. A comparatively new item, first appearing in 1892, and a large one, too, is that providing for the grant we give for the public school leaving examination, amounting last year to \$15,091. School inspection alone cost us \$53,280, and every thoughtful man nowadays couples together inspection and efficient service. (Cheers.) Our normal schools cost us last year \$46,000, and our high schools, \$106,000.

No argument is need, Mr. Speaker, to fortify us in our resolve that we must not by meagre grants stint the work of our high schools. (Cheers.) No less than nine per cent. of all the money we spend for purposes of education consists of payments to superannuated teachers. These payments in 1898 amounted to \$64,532. This is the largest amount we have paid as yet during any one year. This is one of several similar legacies which the Sandfield Macdonald Government bequeathed to its successors.

The Public Institutions.

We spent last year to maintain our public institutions \$815,745. This very large sum represents more than 21 per cent. of our total expenditures for the year. In 1898, ten years ago, the total expenditures for this purpose amounted to \$721,602. In 1883, five years previously, the full amount expended was \$648,995, while in 1878 it was only \$482,466. So vast an increase in twenty years, amounting, as it does, to \$333,279 a year, demands more than ordinary attention.

The bare fact that the maintenance of these institutions consumes almost one-fourth of all our expenditures compels me to speak at some length concerning them. The daily average of the number of our insane cared for by the Province in our seven insane asylums has been steadily increasing from 2,006 in 1878 to 5,004 in 1898. This increase, it will be observed, is at the rate of 150 a year. A bare statement of the fact demands serious and thoughtful attention. Official returns of other countries disclose a like steady increase similarly alarming.

For example, the lunatic population of the State of Wisconsin has been increasing at the rate of 149 a year; that of the State of Pennsylvania at the rate of 552 a year, and that of New York State at the rate of 668 a year. This increase of necessity involves a rapidly-growing public expenditure for this purpose. The number of the insane for each 1,000 of the population in Ontario is 2.11, in Pennsylvania 2.25, in New York State 2.42, and in England 3.20. Our per capita cost of maintenance is surprisingly low. In 1893 it was \$135 71 per patient per year; in 1897 it was \$126 28, and last year it was lower still, viz., \$126 19. Our weekly per capita cost last year was \$2 43; in Pennsylvania it was \$3 57, in New York \$3 75, and in Wisconsin \$4 54. The House will be glad to learn that we continue to manage these institutions more economically than they do elsewhere. (Cheers.)

Hon. Mr. Harcourt quoted the returns of cost per capita in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, showing that had those States conducted their institutions as cheaply last year as were those of Ontario the taxpayers would have saved \$346,950 and \$107,040 respectively, and that the ratepayers of the State of New York paid in direct taxes during 1896 for the care of its insane \$3,057,057, and in 1897 nearly \$5,000,000, while our ratepayers are relieved completely from this burden.

Expenditures on Capital Account.

Continuing, Hon. Mr. Harcourt said: **Our capital expenditures alone in connection with these institutions have been enormous.** Our opponents, including all my hon. friends opposite, have since I last addressed this House been addressing audiences throughout the country, and in their addresses they have pretended to explain our exact financial condition. Is it not surprising, Mr. Speaker, that on these occasions they never allude to the manifest and very pertinent fact that the Province has from year to year been making very large permanent investments out of its yearly revenues in erecting public buildings, the usefulness and immediate necessity of which no one at any time seeks to deny?

Hon. gentlemen opposite take special pains to state that we collect large revenues from our forests, but they religiously conceal the fact that the sums thus collected have been expended in providing accommodation for our afflicted classes and in maintaining them from year to year, and in this way relieving the municipalities of what would otherwise be a very serious burden. My hon. friends know well that these large expenditures have been made in the public interest, that they have been wholly unavoidable, and they do not pretend to name a single institution which to-day could be dispensed with. There has been expended, sir, on capital account for buildings alone for the insane and idiotic since the Mowat Government first assumed office \$3,104,616. I am not now including the buildings erected for the blind or for the deaf and dumb. We have expended during the last ten years for these buildings \$1,850,013. These amounts would be increased by \$264,191 if I were