

to include the cost since 1873 of the buildings at Brantford, where the blind are cared for and taught, and those at Belleville, where similar provision is made for the deaf and dumb. We have spent on capital account at Brantford and Belleville during the last ten years \$83,507.

Continuing, Hon. Mr. Harcourt pointed out that during recent years, in addition to the erection of buildings, large sums have been expended in the improvement and extension of the various Provincial institutions at Mimico, Brockville, London, Hamilton and Kingston, totalling \$35,280. He intimated that the Government desired from time to time to make further alterations and improvements, which would necessitate increased expenditures outside of ordinary maintenance charges, and instanced new hospital buildings at the Queen street and London asylums, costing \$30,000 each; a chapel and recreation room at Brockville, costing \$5,000, and spray bath in the west wing at the Kingston asylum.

Additional Accommodation Required.

Continuing, Mr. Harcourt said: We have recently spent such large sums for new buildings, so as to provide beds for patients whose friends kept clamoring for their admission, that we have been reluctantly compelled to delay making improvements, alterations and extensions in the different directions to which I have alluded. We have provided new beds during the last ten years for 1,635 patients at a capital cost of no less than \$1,238,267. I regret to be compelled to say that the question of additional accommodation is even now again demanding our attention. I must ask the House this very session for a grant which will enable us to finish the attics of our Brockville cottages. We can in this way make room for, say, sixty new admissions. During the year we must consider and decide how best to provide for still further accommodation. If it were not our policy to be rigidly careful as to all our expenditures we could readily add largely to our annual asylum expenditures, and in ways and directions which every one would approve of, if we had unlimited means at our disposal. I will at present give one or two illustrations only. We have not made as yet any special provision for epileptic patients. The dividing line between epilepsy and insanity, as experts inform us, is very narrow. In New York, for example, what is called an epileptic colony was opened three years ago, and it has accommodation now for 350 patients. It is universally admitted that this class of unfortunates should not be confined in poor-houses or asylums. They require special care, attention and treatment. Regular and constant employment, out of doors work on farm or garden, is what they specially need. With suitable surroundings and proper care their sad condition can be greatly ameliorated. Having a large fertile farm, their cost of maintenance would be very light. It has been confidently stated that there are more than 100,000 epileptics in the United States. Beyond any question we have hundreds of them in this Province, who would be greatly benefited

if we were able to provide for them as their special needs demand. (Cheers.)

Referring to the number of nurses and attendants, Hon. Mr. Harcourt pointed out that there are fewer nurses and attendants in the Ontario asylums than in similar institutions in the United States, and the Superintendents have urged that an increased number would be a distinct advantage. He also stated, notwithstanding the fact that the Government has erected three new buildings within the past ten years, there is still pressing need for further accommodation. The official records disclose the fact that 282 deaths occurred last year in the seven institutions of which he had been speaking. Of these 282 no fewer than 51 were over 60 years of age, 32 over 70 years of age and 16 over 80 years of age. Of the present inmates (numbering more than 5,000) 603 are over 60 years of age, 245 are over 70 years of age, 44 are over 80 years of age and 1 is 97 years of age.

Our System Superior.

At some length the Provincial Treasurer discussed the methods adopted in Wisconsin, where the State contributes \$1 50 per week to county institutions per inmate for care of the insane. Twenty-three counties out of 170 in the States have accepted the offer and are housing the quiet chronic insane in the county. The counties pay a like sum weekly for maintenance and clothing of their dangerous patients in the State institution. The State of Pennsylvania has recently copied the Wisconsin system. From the fact that no curative treatment is attempted, no preference is made to give the inmates constant care and supervision, such as in the State institutions, and that there is a general neglect of important details in the county institutions, the conclusion was drawn that the Ontario system is superior and much more humane, and, all things considered, Ontario could not with profit or advantage depart from it.

We cannot, continued Hon. Mr. Harcourt, even think of giving up the curative feature of our institutions, nor in the interests of broad humanity could we afford to relinquish or even relax State control and authority over them. The rights of the insane as to person and property are so sacred as to constantly demand the most vigilant State supervision. It must be remembered, further, that under the mixed system of the two States I have named the cost of maintenance considerably exceeds ours. No financial advantage, therefore, would accrue from such a change. (Cheers.) I may say here, Mr. Speaker, by way of parenthesis, that the number of the idiotic in our institutions is about one-seventh that of the number of the insane.

Comparison With Quebec.

Another statement or two in connection with these institutions, the merciful and beneficent work of which from day to day cannot be over-estimated, and I will pass now to another subject. We spent last year for the maintenance of our asylums \$626,141. The Province of Quebec spent only \$295,000. During the last five years the cost of maintenance in Ontario has been \$2,993,89.