

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DOMINION.

Most of our readers are aware that the Canada Medical Association has, for the past two or three years, had a special committee at work endeavouring to interest the Dominion Government in the establishment of a system of vital statistics. The efforts of this committee were so far successful, that the Dominion Parliament last season voted \$10,000 towards that object. Last September the committee was re-appointed.

In some, as yet unexplained, way, the Montreal City Board of Health and the members of the Canada Medical Association connected with it seem to have stepped into the place of the committee and summoned delegates from various places and bodies in the Lower Provinces and from the City of Toronto. Dr. Canniff, Chairman of the Committee of the Canada Medical Association, having in the meanwhile observed that such a meeting was to take place, summoned the members of the committee to be present.

As a result then of the invitations from these two sources, the following gentlemen assembled in Ottawa on the 6th December:

Halifax.—Drs. Wickwire, Morin, Almon, Farrell, W. H. McCoy, M.P.P., Mayor Fraser and Hon. Dr. Parker.

Charlottetown.—Dr. Conroy.

St. John, N. B.—Drs. Botsford, Harding, Daniel and Bayard.

Fergus.—Dr. G. Orton, M.P.

Londonderry.—Dr. Macdonald.

Montreal.—Col. A. A. Stevenson, Ald. J. H. Mooney, F. N. Boxer, C. E. J. W. Beaudry, C.E., Ald. Fairbairn, Drs. Hingston, Howard, Larocque, Campbell and Mount.

Quebec.—Mayor F. Langlier, Dr. R. F. Rinfret, Dr. N. E. Dionne and Dr. Roy.

Toronto.—Ald. Taylor and Drs. Oldright, Canniff, G. Wright and Playter.

Ottawa.—Dr. P. St. Jean, Mayor; Drs. J. A. Grant, John Sweetland, S. Wright, Henry Wright, H. Hill, H. B. Small, F.

X. Valade, A. Robillard (Health Officer), R. Mark and A. J. Horsey.

In the afternoon, a meeting was held at the Russell House. Ald. Mooney, of Montreal, was called to the Chair, and the following resolutions were adopted:—

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this meeting, in order the better to prevent disease and preserve human life, it is advisable that the Dominion Government should organize and sustain a uniform system of vital statistics for the Dominion.

Resolved, That, as immediate action is necessary, the Federal Government be invited to initiate at once a system of vital statistics where organized local boards of health are established, so that the statistical information may be utilized by these bodies.

Resolved, That, as Provincial legislative action is necessary, it is suggested to the Federal Government that it communicate with and secure the co-operation of the Provincial Governments to pass such legislation as will harmonize with and obtain the object of the preceding resolutions.

In the evening, the Hon. Mr. Pope entertained the delegates at a dinner at the Russell House.

An adjourned session was afterwards held and the following resolution adopted:

Resolved, That it is desirable that a Central Bureau of Vital Statistics be established, and if found to be within the province of the Federal Government a comprehensive system of health returns.

On the following morning, 7th December, the delegation met at the Russell House and proceeded to the Parliament Buildings, where they were met by Sir Charles Tupper. Dr. Taché, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, was also present. Dr. Parker made a few remarks, stating that the delegation appointed to wait upon the Minister of Agriculture would be glad of the advice and assistance of Sir Charles. The resolutions were then read to the latter gentleman by the Chairman, Ald. Mooney.

Sir Charles Tupper thought them very