

and correction, taxation, home rule, fire, schools, police, and libraries.

It is hoped that each city may be represented by a personal delegation and by some contribution in the shape of models, charts, photographs, and views.

The presence of experts of world-wide fame and known ability will make possible comparisons between communities and cities, thus offering the opportunity of contributing and the privilege of learning.

Formal invitations will be, at a later date, forwarded by the Chicago association of commerce direct. There will be held at

the same time in Chicago an international good roads congress.

While these congresses are not under the auspices of the government of the United States, this government would be glad if the government of the country to which you are accredited would give due publicity to the congresses and recommend the sending of delegates by the municipalities and organizations interested.

You will communicate to the foreign office the invitations to the congresses, and request that due publicity may be given to them.

UNITED STATES

The American Medical Association and an Iowa Plan for the Centralization of Public Health Government.

At the meeting of the American Medical Association, which convenes in Los Angeles this month, Secretary Sumner, of the Iowa State Board of Health, will present a radical system of public health government which, if adopted, would centralize public health matters in a distinct branch of the federal government.

The public health department as outlined by Secretary Sumner, has two departments or functions, executive and legislative.

His plan is to create a federal department of which the surgeon general of the United States Government shall be the chief head. He shall appoint one disease inspector for each state, upon civil service examination, said inspector to hold the place for life or during good behavior. The inspectors shall not remain longer than one or two years in any one state, but shall be itinerant as the bank examiners are.

Under the executive department of the health bureau shall be placed the United States Geological Survey, which shall take entire charge of the investigation of the pollution of all the streams of the country.

The Geological Survey is to make its stream pollution inspection with the state boards of health in each state.

The legislative function of this proposed health department shall be centered in a congress composed of the federal disease inspectors, the members of the Geological Survey and the state boards of health. This legislative body shall meet once every year, with the surgeon-general as the presiding officer. It shall formulate and promulgate rules for uniform quarantine, the proper disposal of the dead and the uniform rules for the transportation of corpses, and, in fact, everything relating to the public health of the country. It shall establish a sanitary code which shall affect all states alike and be the law of the land with reference to health matters.

The state boards of health are to be co-ordinate branches of the public health government, the same as state governments are co-ordinate with the federal government, each supreme in its own particular field.

He also provides that there shall be federal sanitary inspection, by this new federal health department, of interstate trains and Pullmans, with state sanitary inspection of street cars, local trains, hotels and depots.