

ing properly exercised; but it may be desirable to co-operate with them.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: I quite agree with the honourable minister, but I do not think the wording of these subsections carries out the intention. Section 4 says:

The duties and powers of the minister administering the Department of Health shall extend to and include—

certain things, and it mentions, among others:

co-operation with the provincial territorial, and other health authorities: . . . the establishment and maintenance of a national laboratory for public health and research work: . . . the supervision, as regards the public health, of railways, boats, ships, and all methods of transportation.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: They come within the co-operation. Transportation comes peculiarly within the province of the Dominion Government, not of the local health authorities. The local health authorities would not have the right to enter upon a subject which comes peculiarly within the competence of the Dominion Government.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: Sickness on boats or anything of that kind comes within their sphere. It is a matter of public health.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: They could not go on the railways.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: They are actually doing it.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: If I understand this Act, it is to provide for matters which are not now looked after. For instance, transportation on railways and inland transportation is looked after by the local boards of health; but transportation on the sea between one country and another is looked after by the Agriculture Department of the Dominion.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Or inter-provincial.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: They take charge of the ships as they come into the seaports. A Dominion doctor goes on board every ship, and everybody is brought up and examined by him. If contagious disease is found among the passengers, preparation is made for taking care of it. In Halifax we have a fumigating station, and as soon as a ship enters the harbour the whole ship's company, if necessary, are taken there and taken care of. That is all provided for under the Agriculture Department. I take it that the purpose of the proposed department is to look after matters

which are not now provided for, in co-operation with other boards.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: I am sorry that I cannot agree with the honourable gentleman. I have had a great deal of personal experience in this matter, and know exactly what I am talking about. As a matter of fact, quarantine is looked after and has been looked after by the Dominion authorities; but, unfortunately, it has frequently happened that a quarantine port physician will allow a ship to come into port, and once the ship is in port it is beyond his jurisdiction. On several occasions in our own port of St. John this has happened; infectious diseases have broken out on the vessels after they have been passed by the port physician, who then had nothing more to do with them. We have been mulcted to the extent of thousands of dollars to look after epidemics, especially smallpox, which have been occasioned in that way. The duty of looking after these people has fallen upon the local health authorities, the Dominion authorities saying: "These people are out of our hands; they have come through; the disease appeared after they came into port." That is absolutely true, but the disease was there when the ships were passed by the port physician, although it may not have been sufficiently developed for him to have noticed it. To my mind the matter is not at all clear. I presume the Bill is intended to mean what it says, and it says:

The supervision, as regards the public health, of railways, boats, ships and all methods of transportation.

—shall be under the Dominion authorities. Personally, I should be very glad if that were so, but there has got to be a change in our provincial laws if that is to be the case.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: If this Bill is passed, I think the duties of the officer in St. John would be exactly the same as they were before it was passed. In the House of Commons one of the greatest difficulties in connection with this Bill and the one which caused, perhaps, the greatest opposition, was due to the fact that it was thought that we might by this Bill in some way interfere with provincial rights. That was very clear to any one who listened to the debate. The department is to co-operate, and any duties that are performed by local health officers, whether in Winnipeg or in St. John, or in any province, will not be interfered with, as I understand, by the passing of this Bill.

Hon. Mr. DE VEBER: I do not think my honourable friend need fear for a minute