

many other cities, there was no defined co-ordination between the city authorities and the Provincial Government, notwithstanding the fact that the Provincial Government is charged with the care of the public health of the province. I think it is manifest that had there existed proper machinery for the protection of public health, centralized in the Dominion Government, with proper measures of co-ordination and co-operation, many lives might have been saved from the plague which swept over the Dominion and carried away thousands of our people.

In creating this Department of Health, it is not intended that the country shall have imposed upon it an additional minister of the Crown. It is proposed that the Department shall be administered by some one of the present ministers of the Crown. Possibly in the course of time, it may assume such proportions as to necessitate that it should be administered by a separate minister; but in the meantime it is desirable that the department should be created, that we should make a start, and begin to realize the responsibility which rests upon the central Government for adopting proper measures for the protection of the health of the community. It is for this reason that this Bill has been brought down.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: The leader of the House has spoken so well that I will vote for the Bill. He claims that there will be no conflict between the provinces and the Dominion authorities. Of course, I do not know what is going on in the other provinces, but in the province of Quebec, certain work is being done, and I think there may be some conflict with regard to the conservation of child life.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: If my honourable friend will look at paragraph a of section 4 of the Bill, he will see that it is proposed that the department should co-operate with the provincial, territorial, and other health authorities, with a view to the co-ordination of the efforts proposed or made for preserving and improving public health, the conservation of child life, and the promotion of child welfare. In fact, the whole range of duties of the department will be to co-operate with the provinces in so far as that is possible. I am sure there will be no conflict between the two authorities, and even if there is, a rivalry between the provincial governments and the central Government in try-

ing to protect the community would produce very desirable results.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: I would like to add just a few words to the remarks of the honourable leader of the House in order to state that the statistics, which perhaps he did not have at hand, show clearly what has been done by sanitation and by the serum treatment in preventing death in connection with the war. The honourable gentleman stated that during the South African war there died of disease 14,653, while there were killed in battle 7,972, or about half as many. I could state what occurred in the Russo-Japanese war and other wars, but I will not do that. But I will refer to what has occurred in the recent war to show the great improvements that have taken place in medical treatment and in sanitation. Of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, consisting of some 400,000 men, only 2,815 died of disease, while 51,853 were killed in battle. In other words, 5.14 per cent died of disease, while 94.85 per cent died from wounds. I thought perhaps it would be well to give these statistics.

Hon. J. W. DANIEL: Honourable gentlemen, considering the very full address which has been delivered to us by the honourable leader of the Government, I do not think the subject requires much discussion to show the advisability, or rather the necessity, of the Dominion Government providing for the care of the public health. It is a rather curious circumstance that the words "Public Health" do not occur in the whole British North America Act. There are in that Act references to quarantine and to hospitals and buildings of that kind, but no reference, I believe, to public health. Whether that was left out purposely or accidentally I do not know.

The honourable leader of the House has called the attention of this Chamber to the lamentable fact, which has been well known for a long time to the medical profession of this Dominion, that the death-rate in this country is far and away beyond the death-rate in congested places in Great Britain. There is no reason why such a condition should exist in Canada; there is, indeed, every reason why it should not exist. We have plenty of space, but as a matter of fact the people in our cities are congested, with poor housing accommodation, just as much as—indeed, I think, worse than—the people in the old country. We have not many cities in this country, but our cities are full of slums, and there is no doubt that if by means of this Health