

has been expended for the collection of what is termed mortuary statistics. . . . I believe it to be the duty of the Government to establish on a firm basis a Department for the collection of *such statistics as sanitarians wish to use*; mortuary statistics of themselves are not sufficient, we want vital statistics—reports of births and marriages, of epidemics and of the ravages of preventable diseases throughout the country, and then we will have a *foundation upon which the Provincial authorities may act*. . . . I have no doubt whatever that this Government has full authority to institute measures to educate the people on this subject. There is nothing to prevent the Dominion Government spending a large sum in the distribution of weekly or monthly bulletins and reports relating to epidemic diseases throughout the country; providing for the establishment of a hygienic institute and bacteriological laboratory for the investigation and prevention of these diseases: and the distribution of literature teaching the people the various methods by which these diseases may be prevented. And in this way they can do a very large amount of work which is now attempted to be done by the Provincial authorities, and *thus perform at one centre what otherwise will have to be done by each province*. So far as coercion and enforcement of different measures are concerned, I grant this rests with municipalities, acting under the Provincial Legislature. That portion of the work can be safely left to them, but that is no reason why this Parliament and this Government, acting in concert with the Local Legislatures, cannot very largely increase the efficiency of the regulations now existing in this country."

Dr. Roome said he "would be pleased to know that each had a board and that their laws were strictly enforced. I am satisfied that the board in Ontario is doing a great deal of good, and would do *very much more if the people were educated on health matters* and the causes of disease. But disease knows no provincial or municipal lines. Therefore, health teaching must

necessarily fall upon the Federal Government. I believe it is just as essential to have a Federal health or Department of health as it is to have a Department of Agriculture. . . . Each Province now has a Minister of Agriculture or a similar office; still they do not interfere with our Federal Minister of Agriculture. Each has its particular functions to perform. . . . The Hon. Minister of Agriculture has had established, since he has occupied his office, a Central Experimental Farm with several branch farms. The object of these is to make investigations, so as to instruct the farmers as to the best and most improved system of farming; the most reliable seeds to sow, &c. And, Sir, while doing this, is it not just as desirable that there should be a department where useful knowledge could be gathered, useful experiments made, and the knowledge so gained disseminated amongst the people, as to the best mode of preventing disease. Prof. Saunders had informed the Committee on Agriculture that he had imported a variety of wheat from Russia, which he had been experimenting on, and that he believed it was equal in quality to any which we had, and would ripen ten or twelve days earlier. If such proves to be the case, it will be worth millions of dollars to Canada. Now, Sir, if we had a similar place where experiments could be made as to the cause and origin of disease, and especially that dreaded disease, tuberculosis, . . . and if it were found to be intercommunicable between man and the domestic animals, without a doubt it would be the duty of this Parliament to take steps to eradicate the disease. . . . By so doing they would confer a greater boon on the people of Canada, than the introduction of any kind of grain or fruit into this country. There should be then an efficient laboratory for the investigation of the causes and origin of diseases. Such a laboratory could collect cases from one end of the Dominion to the other, and yet *could be carried on at a very little more cost than a laboratory for one Province would cost*.

Dr. Sproule said: "We have no statistics or reports showing where diseases are