

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vancouver, August 26th, 1904.

To the President and Members of the Canadian Medical Association:

Gentlemen,—Your Committee in charge of the question of the establishment of a Department of Public Health by the Dominion Government have the honor to report that the matter has, to a certain extent, been in abeyance since our meeting at London last year (1903). At that meeting you will recollect we reported certain interviews with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture, at which we were led to understand that it was not feasible for the Government to give us any assurance that our wishes in the matter could be practically considered. The resolution again passed at London pressing the subject on the attention of the Government as one closely associated with the country's welfare and best interests, was duly forwarded to the Dominion authorities.

It was also pointed out to the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture by the convener of your Committee that the medical profession of the Dominion, as represented by the Canadian Medical Association, were united in their desire to have such a department created, and that they were only actuated in the matter by motives of patriotism, feeling assured that the administration of public health in matters pertaining to the Dominion Government would be greatly facilitated and rendered more useful and satisfactory if it emanated from a central department instead of having a series of branches having executive authority scattered through a number of departments of the Government.

Your Committee are gratified to be able to report that there are evidences that, during the present recess, the matter will engage the attention of the Privy Council more seriously than it has hitherto done. Before legislation could be introduced certain questions involving much consideration will have to be settled, and we are given to understand that these preliminaries will be weighed before Parliament meets. While it is to a certain extent unsatisfactory to be obliged to report in such an indefinite way, yet we trust the Association will understand we have not been idle, but that in a matter of this kind we are in the hands of the goodwill of the Government, and that it would be neither judicious nor delicate to compromise the present favorable opportunity by referring in detail to the reasons that have enabled us to hazard our present opinions.

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed) R. W. POWELL,
Convener of Special Committee.

This report, on motion, was received and adopted.