

been suggested, to be dealt with by the Provincial Governments alone. I am glad to hear, that there is some chance of the establishment of experimental stations to test the communicability of diseases in this domain. We have spent a great deal of money on the Experimental Farm, and we have spent it wisely and judiciously, but I say that the necessity now is to expend some money on experimental stations in order to endeavor to ascertain the causes and to endeavor to avert the diseases which have afflicted us. I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

Dr. PLATT said: The mover of the resolution has brought to the attention of the House, a matter which surpasses in importance many of the subjects which we have had to discuss during this and previous Sessions. I am glad to see that one layman, as he calls himself, has taken an interest in this subject, and expressed his views upon it. I cannot say that I will support the motion as it stands now, but I very heartily indorse the object of the mover. For many years this subject has been discussed in the Parliament of Canada, and, unfortunately, we have failed to see that increasing interest taken in it which its importance demands. Great advancement has been made of late years in sanitary science, and in the knowledge of preventive medicine; and we may hope that, in the near future, we shall see beneficial results arising, and steps being taken on the part of the Government in the direction indicated in this motion. The objection which is most likely to be taken, and which has heretofore proved fatal to similar motions, has been the difficulty of dividing the responsibility and work between the Provincial and the Federal Legislatures. I confess that there is some difficulty on that point but so far as mortuary and vital statistics, the foundation of all sanitary work are concerned, there can be no doubt that the Dominion Government have it in their power, it is, in fact, their duty to provide the means for the collection of such statistics. Indeed that has been recognised by this Parliament, and a Department of Statistics has been organised, and for several years a considerable sum of money has been expended for the collection of what is termed mortuary statistics. I have already intimated, during this present Session, that, in my opinion, we have either done too little or we have been doing too much; we should either move forward from where we are now standing, or we should cease to expend \$10,000 a year for providing mortuary statistics. It is acknowledged on all hands that the basis of all sanitary work throughout the country must

of necessity be statistics, and statistics which are incomplete, or imperfect, or incorrect, are of very little utility. I am sorry to say that the opinion prevails, and not without reason, that the mortuary statistics furnished by the Department of Agriculture are not reliable, and cannot be of very much service to any sanitary board. We continue to collect them from a certain definite number of points, but they give us a very inadequate idea of the ravages of diseases throughout the country generally, or of the number of deaths which occur from certain diseases in various localities. Now, I will take the trouble to compare the death rate, and the number of deaths, as announced in the last return of mortuary statistics furnished by the registrar of the Province of Ontario, with those which have been furnished by the Dominion Government, to show the difference between the results arrived at by those two authorities in respect to the same cities. In the city of Toronto, we find, according to the report of the Department of Agriculture, that in 1888 there were 2,498 deaths; whereas, according to the registrar of the Province of Ontario, there were 2,839 deaths. The rate per 1,000, according to the Dominion Government, is only 14.97, and, according to the Ontario authority, it is 20.3. You see that a great discrepancy exists with regard to the city of Toronto. Then, take the city of Hamilton. The Dominion Government reported 823 deaths, and the Ontario Government, 720; rate per 1,000, according to the former, 18.57, and according to the latter 16. For the city of Ottawa the Dominion statistics returned 923 deaths; the Ontario statistics 958, not a great discrepancy. The death rate was 23.9, according to the latter, and 22.51, according to the former. As we go on through the list we find in the smaller towns, where statistics are given by the two separate boards, and where both authorities collect their returns from officials of cemeteries, there is very little discrepancy indeed; but in the larger cities where both boards strive to arrive at correct calculation, we find a great discrepancy. This throws distrust upon all the statistics, and shows the necessity of organising a new, and better system whereby we may arrive at conclusions that will assist sanitarians much more than the present system aids them. I think there is also a feeling that much more should be done in the way of providing instruction for the people, and assisting in lessening the deaths from various diseases. As I have already stated, they have found in England and elsewhere, that without statistics of a reliable char-