

of defence might be adopted. All municipalities could then be advised and concerted action taken so as to obtain a uniform system of sanitation throughout the country. If the Chairmen of Provincial Boards of Health and the Solicitor General of the Federal Government were to be appointed *ex officio* members of the National Board of Health, the work of constructing the new Board could be easily and satisfactorily accomplished. Such an establishment would also be an inducement to some of the Provinces, in which the appointment of Provincial Health Boards has been neglected, to pay attention to the formation of these important bodies. For instance, while Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick have Provincial Boards of Health in active operation, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and British Columbia have none.

The necessity for a National Board of Health seems to grow with the growth of the country. Ocean ports on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, with a trans-continental line of railroad and a land frontier of about 2,500 miles, open channels for the introduction of epidemic disease. For obvious reasons immigration must not be stopped. It should, however, be controlled so as to prevent, as is done in England, the immigration of all who would come under the caption of "filthy and unwholesome aliens." Canada would thus secure, with every coming year, a notable increase of population without being exposed to loss of valuable lives from preventable diseases such as small-pox and cholera. A National Board of Health would also be of great benefit in investigating the diseases of domestic animals, thus begetting a feeling of confidence in foreign countries as to the status of live stock in Canada. Registration and vital statistics, the adulteration and deterioration of food and drugs would naturally fall under the sphere of such a board.

Finally, even from the low standpoint of expediency, the establishment of a National Board of Health, which need not be expensive, would be a capital advertisement for the Federal Government, showing that whilst Canada is anxious to secure the better class of settlers, she is determined that their health interests, as well as those of the inhabitants of the country, shall be protected from the inroads of preventable diseases.

THE OTTAWA SANITARY CONFERENCE.

The Quarantine Commission of the International Conference of State Boards, which last autumn investigated the actual conditions of the various American, Canadian and Mexican quarantine stations, has been fruitful in good results to Canada. For instance, during the prevalence of the cholera scare last year, among other improvements a new McEvoy disinfector, greater facilities for fresh water supplies, a bacteriological laboratory, and a bath and closet building were provided at Grosse Isle. This year the Federal Government has taken a forward step by assembling at Ottawa a conference of heads of Provincial Departments and sanitary experts, in order to consider the relations between Dominion and Provincial sanitation, and to recommend any necessary improvements in the quarantine of Canadian maritime and inland ports. The Conference met in the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, January 31, at 2 p.m., the following gentlemen being present: Mr. Lowe, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, representing the Federal Government, Hon. J. M. Gibson, Hon. R. Harcourt and Hon. Mr. Bronson, representing the Provincial Government of Ontario; Hon. L. P. Pelletier, the Provincial Government of Quebec; Hon. James Mitchell, the Provincial Government of New Brunswick; Hon. Senator Macdonald and Mr. L. H. Davies, M.P., the Provincial Government of Prince Edward Island; Dr. Cassidy, Chairman Provincial Board of Health, Ont., Dr. Bryce, Secretary, Dr. Lachapelle, Chairman Provincial Board of Health, Quebec; Dr. Pelletier, Secretary, Dr. O'Donnell, Manitoba; Dr. Davie, British Columbia. Nova Scotia was unrepresented. Dr. Montizambert, Medical Superintendent of the Grosse Isle station, was present, at the request of the Minister of Agriculture. The work of preparing a report, showing the duties and responsibilities to be assumed respectively by the Dominion and the Provinces in the matter of taking precautions against and dealing with any threatened invasion of Asiatic cholera was entrusted to the following committee.—Dr. Cassidy, Dr. Bryce, Dr. Lachapelle, Dr. Pelletier, Hon. Mr. Mitchell, Dr. O'Donnell and Senator Macdonald, with instructions to report to the Conference next morning at 10 a.m. This was done, and the report of this committee,