

At its morning session this Conference has by resolution urged upon the various Provincial Governments of this Dominion, the enactment of such legislation as will tend to prevent the spread of tuberculosis. We have now to ask : Can the Federal Government help on the good work and if so by what means ? Finding that there are means whereby it can aid in the prevention of tuberculosis, it behoves us to employ our united efforts to induce the Premier, the members of his cabinet and the members of both Houses of Parliament, to undertake such legislation as, affecting the whole Dominion, shall in its turn surely diminish the burden laid upon the progress of our country by this scourge.

Now, gentlemen, as it has already been pointed out, the provisions of the British North America Act place the duty of legislating upon municipal health matters in the hands of the various provinces, and in the prevention of tuberculosis, as in almost every other matter connected with the health of the people, there is an ever present difficulty in defining with exactitude what is municipal and what more than municipal. It may, that is, be argued that all legislation bearing upon the tuberculous patient, whereby he is rendered less dangerous to his neighbours, is strictly a concern of the different provincial governments, that it is the duty of the municipality, if I may so express it, to look after the prevention of the entry and spread of an infectious disease in its midst, and that so the Federal Government would trespass upon the prerogatives of the provinces in venturing to enact general legislation directed to the stamping out of this or other disease.

Happily—if happily be not too grim a term—the very prevalence of the scourge throughout our country from one ocean to the other elevates this campaign against it, to a more than provincial dignity. Tuberculosis is a disease confronting and menacing the whole nation and the eradication of tuberculosis is a national concern. He would be too provincial, too contemptible in his narrowness, who would raise his voice in opposition to any well-considered scheme whereby the Federal Government could lessen the incidence of the disease, could improve the condition of our people, could add to the years and productivity of the average Canadian, and could better our position as a race. He again deserves no consideration, and in the certainty of our present knowledge his opposition must be regarded with deserved suspicion, who opposes plans of the Federal Government to arrest the extension of tuberculosis among our cattle, plans which, pursued actively in other countries, have been of proved efficiency ; plans which by stamping out tuberculosis would improve the market value of our cattle and make Canada the premier breeding ground of the world for high class cattle unsullied by disease ; who, in short, seeks to hinder the government from benefiting