

THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

In 1919 a new and important chapter in the public health history of Canada was begun by the inauguration of the Federal Department of Health with a former official of the Provincial Board, Dr. John A. Amyot, C.M.G., as Deputy Minister. The plan of organization includes a Dominion Council of Health. The provinces are represented on the Council by their respective executive officers, and there are five additional members representing agricultural, labour, women's and public health educational interests. The scope of the new department embraces a wide range of subjects, not ordinarily within the control of the provinces. It is the intention to develop research laboratories. Undoubtedly the formation of the department will be of great value in the promotion of public health.

For upwards of half a century (1865-1920) previous to the formation of this Department the public health work of Canada had been carried on almost single-handed by the Director-General, Dr. Frederick Montizambert, C.M.G. Under his direction the quarantine and marine hospital service of both coasts and at Grosse Ile in the St. Lawrence was developed. The figure of this courtly gentleman has been conspicuous at the public health gatherings of North America since their earliest days. He has been President of both the American and Canadian Public Health Associations, and to his energy and ability much of the progress of public health work on this continent must be ascribed. The younger generation of us owe much to the fine public spirit, the wise counsel and the friendship of the Director-General who has just retired from the service. Dr. Montizambert is a notable example of the public servant found all over the British Empire, whose greatest reward is commonly to be found at the end of his career in a sense of duty well done.

The Canadian Public Health Association was organized in 1911 when the first meeting was held in Montreal under the patronage of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada. The Association has managed, despite the difficulties of war and the lack of financial resources, to have a meeting each year since that date. Its further prospects are bright, the membership is enthusiastic and increasing