

EXHAUSTIVE REVIEW
OF RESULTS UNDER
PUBLIC HEALTH LAW

Hon. Dr. Roberts, in Stirring Speech, Disposes of
Criticism From Opposition
Members

Widespread Benefits Explained and Plea Made for
Co-operation in Work of Improving Public
Health Conditions—Forty Thousand School
Children Under Medical Inspection—Other
Safeguards Giving Most Encouraging Re-
sults—The Fight Against Tuberculosis and
Cancer—New Conditions Compared With Old.

Fredericton, March 28.—In a speech
lasting four hours Hon. Dr. Roberts,
minister of health, in the legislature to-
day in an able manner disposed of recent
criticisms directed at the health act and
its administration and explained to the
people of this province in a clear and
nightening review the great good done
by the department of health, and the
necessity for carrying on this humane
work of combating disease.

In opening his address Hon. Dr. Roberts
sounded a note of optimism in regard
to conditions in New Brunswick com-
pared with world conditions generally.
Speaking of the department of health,
the minister declared that this depart-
ment would in time occupy the first
place in the state and the opposition
would place it there when it realized
what the department was for.

An exhaustive review of the present
act was given by the speaker, and he
explained the pains taken in formulating
it, the gathering of much data, the
study of the vast amount of good that
public health service had done through-
out the world, and cited specific instances
in regard to certain diseases where much
improvement had been made and the
death rate greatly reduced. The minister
told of the deplorable conditions that
were disclosed by the survey made by
John Hall before the present act came
into effect, and in contrast pointed out
the vast improvement since the act be-
came operative.

During the course of his address Hon.
Dr. Roberts said that if possible next
year he would ask the government to
finance the medical inspection of schools.
This would relieve the cost on the munici-
palities and place the work under direct
control of the government. It was the
intention to divide the province into sec-
tions and have full time inspectors on
the job. The work of the sanitary in-
spectors was reviewed and the necessity
for them shown. The minister said,
however, that this year it would be op-
tional with the municipalities whether
they had these inspectors. The grave
menace of venereal diseases was thor-
oughly dealt with by the minister and
the danger of not doing so after this phase
of public health was shown.

Hon. Dr. Roberts said that an amend-
ment would be brought in to amend
the representation of the municipal council
on the board of health four out of the
five members, thus giving the council
greater authority. Another amendment
to be brought in would provide for the
inspection of hotels throughout the prov-
ince.

In conclusion, he made a strong plea
for co-operation from both sides of the
house in carrying out the humane work
of public health improvement.
Adjournment of the debate was moved
by F. W. Smith, of Carleton.

The house went into committee at 10
o'clock to consider certain bills.

Hon. Mr. Roberts introduced a bill
relating to sewerage in the parish of
Simonds.

Hon. Mr. Meserve introduced a bill
to amend the act relating to Women's
Institutes. He explained the progress
of the institutes had become of great im-
portance in connection with the agricultural
department and the object of the bill was
to give them a legal status to enable
them to own property.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill to
amend the act relating to justices. He
said that the object of the bill was to ex-
empt postmasters and their officials from
service on juries.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill to
amend the St. John city court act. He
explained that under the law attorneys
of the supreme court could not be sued
in the St. John city court, although ac-
tion could be taken against them be-
fore justices of the peace. The bill
proposed to extend the jurisdiction of the
police magistrate of St. John.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill to
amend the act relating to the New
Brunswick baristers' society. He ex-
plained that under the existing law
were admitted to practice without exam-
ination. Under the proposed amendment
it would be necessary for them in fu-
ture to pass an examination prescribed
by the Baristers' Society. Another sec-
tion of the bill empowers the society to
elect former members.

Hon. Mr. Michaud introduced a bill
relating to the town of Edmundston, a
bill to enable the trustees of the parish
of Madawaska to issue debentures and
another relating to the town of St.
Leonard.

Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a bill to
provide for the payment of pensions for
teachers in the public schools. He ex-
plained that under the present act provided
for a maximum pension of \$400 per year on
a teacher completing thirty-five years
of service, and was based on one-half
the average salary for the last five years.
Under the old law there was no allow-
ance for disability. Last year there was
paid out under the act the sum of \$11-
\$24,474.41, in 1919, \$8,825.88; in
1917, \$8,208.89, and in 1921, \$11,860.18.
Under the new act for those in active
service and not drawing pensions prior
to July 1, 1922, the maximum would be
\$800. In the case of teachers who might
become disabled after twenty years of
service there would be an allowance
equal to three-fifths of the total pension
received according to half the average
salaries for the last five years of their
service. The teachers would contribute
to the fund five per cent of their gov-

ernment grant, which for the past school
year would amount to approximately
\$12,000. The provisions of the proposed
act would apply to all persons holding
valid licenses, and who at the time of
its passage are employed as inspectors,
normal school instructors, local superin-

we are going to be forced to let up. The
members of the house can do much to
relieve the expenditures for one year at
least upon roads. And that is to cut
down their demands in their districts
and let the people feel for a little the
actual state of affairs that exist. The
minister also praised the results accom-
plished by the Department of Agricul-
ture.

Public Health.
Regarding the department of public
health, he then went on to speak of
the transition from the old regulations to
the new, and declared that had it not
been that a separate portfolio had been
declared and a minister of health ap-
pointed, the legislation that this prov-
ince has today never would have existed.
He showed clearly that the public health
act is neither an octopus or incubus, nor
representative of any of the epithets that
it has pleased the critics of it during the
few years of its existence to hurl at it
with the hope that some one of the mis-
siles would administer the deadly blow.

Some of the Benefits.
Dr. Roberts continued:
"The following is a list of a few of
the accomplishments of public health
administration in several parts of the
outside world:

(1) The virtual abolition of bubo-
nic plague in western countries.
(2) The almost complete abolition
of Asiatic cholera in Europe and
America.
(3) The widespread abolition of
yellow fever in many seaports of
Mexico and Central and South
America.
(4) The abolition of malaria in
the same regions and most particu-
larly in the Panama canal zone and
in most of the southern states of the
union.
(5) The abolition or very great
reduction of the hookworm through-
out the southern states of the union.
(6) The gradual suppression of
sleeping sickness throughout great
tracts of the African continent.
(7) The vast reduction of small-
pox by vaccination.
(8) The conquest of hydrophobia
by serum inoculation.
(9) The eighty per cent reduction
of deaths from diphtheria by anti-
toxip.

(10) The sixty per cent reduction
of more deaths from typhoid fever
by the introduction of the bacillus
of prevention of this disease and the
prevention of this disease and of diphter-
ia by inoculation.
(11) The reduction of deaths of
infants less than one year old by
from over one-half to two-thirds.
(12) The extension of the expecta-
tion of life about fifteen years dur-
ing the last half century.
(13) The reduction of the normal
death rate from over twenty per
thousand to less than ten per thousand.
"As to a few things that have been
accomplished by the public health act
in this province during the three years
in which its services have been orga-
nized and set in motion," said Dr. Rob-
erts, "the first was the making of a
health survey to ascertain conditions as
they existed in 1917 in this province,
made by a gentleman especially qual-
ified and highly recommended by Pro-
fessor Herman M. Biggs, of New York
city, the latter services have been sug-
gested this as a wise procedure before
undertaking to organize. The follow-
ing are a few of the conditions that ob-
tained under the old dispensation as
found by Mr. Hall:

The Old Conditions.
1. Communicable diseases running
riot, as far as placarding, quaran-
tining, fumigation and school.
2. No campaign of education.
3. Deaths apparently needless from
exposure that should not have at-
tended.

4. No attention given to water
supply.
5. Four great epidemics of small-
pox, thousands of cases, hundreds
of thousands of dollars worth of prop-
erty destroyed because no named
advise or supervision.
6. School buildings in rural dis-
tricts neglected and in some in-
stances that are absolutely depre-
ciating to the health, morals and
lives of the students who are to be
our future citizens.

7. No medical school inspection,
but which since having been
adopted proved that at least 65 per
cent of our children are physically
deficient or mentally deficient.
8. No efficient collection, collating
and publishing of vital statistics.
9. "Communicable diseases as far as
preventive measure were concerned were
running riot, little attempt being made
to quarantine or segregate cases in the
interests of prevention. This was a
part of the medical school inspection
service. Under the old regime, the mun-
icipal councils would have had to pay
private physicians either fifty cents or
one dollar per school. What does this
mean—forty thousand school children

vaccinated? It means an army of de-
fence when the much to be dreaded
scourge of smallpox presents itself and
the barrier over which it is absolutely
impossible for smallpox to gain an en-
trance.
"Further, from year to year, every
scholar that enters school must become
vaccinated. In country districts, remem-
ber, as well as in the city. This means
a continued line of defence becoming
stronger year by year. As a result of
this service, together with the fact that
upon every occasion of an outbreak of
smallpox, which is recurring almost
every week or two, due to people com-
ing from lumber camps, from neighbor-
ing states and provinces, there are large
numbers being vaccinated as contacts.
Just a few years more of such a service
and apart from the individual case com-
ing within our gates, above referred to,
there will be no opportunity for a spread
among others.
"From careful reports made of some
twenty-five years of experience under
other forms of health legislation, there
is no doubt in my mind, the annual sav-
ing to the province as a whole, an
amount that would represent nearly the
net amount of money today being paid
out in support of the department at
Fredericton and its staff.
"Will my honorable friends discount
this and say that this service is not
efficient? And, if so, will they kindly
point out the table of the house some
other plan that will be less expensive
and more efficient?
"Kindly remember that practically all
I have referred to thus far concerns the

folks in rural districts whom my friends
in opposition claim are not in need of
such health legislation.
"In addition to the vaccination of
school children, we have attempted to
make a careful physical examination of
every child attending the public school
in this province, at the latest, during his
second year in attendance and endeavor
to have pointed any condition either
physical or mental that would serve to
depreciate his future progress in seek-
ing an education and later in life that
would render it other than a perfect
citizen.
"Can my hearers for one moment esti-
mate what a service such as I have just
outlined, properly applied and carried
out would mean to this province, not
only along the lines of health, peace and
happiness but, when you consider how
eventually lowered because of such vac-
cination? Reduce, if you will, fifty per cent
at least of the cause for hospitalization,
both general tuberculosis, insane, for the
indigent, municipal homes, children's aid,
many instances orphan's home, and, in
case of criminals, your jails and peni-
tentiaries, and I do not think it would
take a specialist in mathematics to see
plainly what the results would be and
yet, do my friends still contend that the
cost to this country is proportionous and
should be reduced? Mr. Speaker, you
will kindly bear in mind what this great
expenditure means practically inausur-
able as it does, our citizens against epide-
mic, contagious diseases, such as smallpox,
typhoid, diphtheria, etc., preventing the
cost connected with illness and, in many

instances, death of those who are near
and dear to us. I say, do you realize
that the expenditure for all of this
amounts to twenty-five cents per capita
or about one mill on the dollar of the
taxable values of this province.
"While the physicians who have been
acting as medical school inspectors have
rendered so good a service, nevertheless
co-operating faithfully, and considering
the limited time at their disposal and
perhaps, in some instances their inabili-
ty from a practical viewpoint, have
many instances as called for today by
schools who have set aside a post-grad-
uate course especially for such a
service.
"When a physician examines a child
under the provisions of medical school
inspection, it is most important in jus-
tice to the child, to the state and to
the public, that nothing, regardless of how
insignificant or latent the condition may
be, that would predispose that child to
mental or physical disability, be over-
looked. So, having this in mind for
more than a year, I have noted some
of the lapses just referred to, such as
not carrying on the state and to be
upon at all; and when done so, in many
instances a most superficial examination
made for reasons above referred to. To
this end, I might say, that during the
year I have met the several sub-district
boards of Health in general and laid be-
fore them the idea of declaring some six
medical school inspectors areas and
over each to have placed an all-time
man, who would give his entire attention
to this work, and who would not be
permitted to carry on private practice
and would also be available to aid the
department in case of epidemic or other
emergency. And I might say, that with
a few exceptions all were unanimous in
giving the suggestion a trial for one year,
my having assumed the responsibility of
providing a more efficient service as to
estimate for medical school inspection last
year.
Optional.
"I have decided to make this service
optional this year, so that any one of the
groups may, beginning with July next,
arrange their medical school inspection in
this way. Then we will be able to
demonstrate the difference in the results
of the work achieved. The boards who
do not acquiesce at this time with the
idea may then, as before, make their own
arrangements. And I might say, that with
the financial support. They are
looking kindly on the proposition and I
am led to believe that if the finances of
the province become sufficiently buoy-
ant, they may undertake this to aid this
very important service.
"You must remember that in inaugu-
rating this Public Health Service the
government of this province did not wish
for one moment to become dictatorial to
the municipalities, or, as our friends are
pleased to denigrate it, to become au-
thoritic, but they did feel that with the
returns of the war and epidemic coming
in, that there should be some different
form of legislation than pre-existed. The
framing of such was left with myself,
after going most thoroughly through al-
most every piece of public health legisla-
tion, in England, Australia, Canada
and the United States, with the result as
you see. The government was willing
to establish the central bureau so as to
be able in this way to give advice and
administration but at the time it was im-
possible to carry the whole burden and,
(Continued on page 10, first column.)

things that you can count upon as sure
as the night follows the day is the
building of increased hospital accommo-
dations; provincial hospitals for the in-
sane; municipal homes; tuberculosis
hospitals, and, unfortunately, Mr. Speak-
er, jails and penitentiaries. Just as sure
as we are here in this house of assembly
today, let me say that properly applied
Public Health legislation in this prov-
ince, if carried out, will have been able
in management, in increased capacity
and running expenses, sufficient money
to pay back a greater part that will
have been spent upon Public Health in
this province both by the government
and municipalities."
Some of the Things Done.
"Now to organize, so as to combat
these conditions effectively and take
over the additional services, we have
required just what organization we have
asked for neither more nor less. And
with this organization we have been able
to accomplish the following things in
this province:
"Forty thousand pupils have under-
gone medical school inspection. All of
these have been vaccinated, and as the
premise intimated in hal reference to
this department during his address, with-
out one cent extra cost to the munici-
palities of the province. This was a
part of the medical school inspection
service. Under the old regime, the mun-
icipal councils would have had to pay
private physicians either fifty cents or
one dollar per school. What does this
mean—forty thousand school children

What every mother
should know—
THE one subject nearest a
mother's heart is the welfare
of her children. It is during
childhood that their health is
most important.
Weak, under-nourished chil-
dren seldom develop into vigor-
ous, healthy men and women.
Malnutrition produces anemic
constitutions, liable to many
diseases. Food is the most
important factor in the de-
velopment of children.
An interesting fact to every
mother in Canada
is this: Grape-
Nuts, served with
milk or cream, is
a complete food.
Grape-Nuts is
the wholesome, delicious cereal
made of whole wheat flour and
malted barley. It is rich in nutri-
tive mineral salts that supply
strength and nourishment to the
growing body tissues. Your
children will thrive on it.
Begin today to make Grape-
Nuts, with milk or cream, the
regular breakfast dish—not only
for the children, but for you and
the others as well.
Your grocer sells Grape-Nuts,
the same delicious Grape-Nuts
that is served in the leading hotels
and restaurants of Canada.
The cost of Grape-Nuts is
little—because of the large num-
ber of dishes you can serve from
one package.
Grape-Nuts—the Body Builder
"There's a Reason"
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