

had concluded that it would be in the best interests of the general public welfare of the Dominion that such should be done, and that the time had come when Canada should be elevated from the entirely secondary place she now occupies among the nations in this branch of the public service, and that she should at once have a status conferred by Parliament whereby all questions relating to sanitary science and public health should be dealt with from a central authority, to be known as the Public Health Department.

Many matters of detail were not particularly discussed at the interview inasmuch as your committee felt that their duty consisted chiefly in pressing upon the Government the main idea by endeavoring to show that the present system of having the various subjects scattered throughout several departments, with consequent multiple division of authority, was not calculated to impress the public with the great importance of the administration.

Your committee, moreover, insisted strongly that our profession was a strong, active body of earnest workers, and their number and influence entitled them to this consideration, which was for the public welfare, and not in any way directly or indirectly for their personal benefit, and finally it was pointed out that the skeleton of this plan is already well laid, and a Director-General of Public Health holds an appointment to-day, an earnest, hard-working, able official at present issuing his orders in *re* quarantine from the Department of Agriculture, which is an anomaly *per se*, and lessens the authority in a measure, and yet he has nothing to say as regards sick seamen, sick Indians, adulteration of food, vital statistics, and has no laboratory under his control.

The Prime Minister was most courteous, and listened patiently to the arguments set forth, and finally authorized Dr. Roddick to place a resolution upon the order paper, with a view to having a discussion in Parliament before the Privy Council took up the matter in earnest.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier also stated that, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, who was familiar with the whole question, he would not willingly go into the matter at greater length with a view to legislation, in the Minister's absence.

Dr. Roddick's resolution was as follows:

"That it is expedient in the public interest to constitute a Department of Public Health for the Dominion, charged with the execution of the various duties which are, or may be, imposed upon or assumed by the Government, for the protection of the public health, and the prevention and mitigation of diseases, and that such Department of Public Health be administered under the direction of a Minister of the Crown in