

got them; and, therefore, to that extent, I think this duty is fairly and justly imposed on the Federal Parliament. Without statistics it is impossible for us to obtain information as to what our people die from, and as to what steps should be taken to keep them alive. Last year I went across the Atlantic, in the hope of being able to attend the medical congress held in Paris at the end of July last, at which, among other subjects, that of the communicability of disease from cattle to man was to be considered; but, unfortunately, I was detained by some foolish Customs officers in London, and was unable to get there in time. I obtained, however, a report of the proceedings. One of the matters brought before the congress was the report of the French Government Commission of 1888, which ascertained from medical statistics that one-third of all the deaths in France resulted from that fatal disease, tuberculosis. They came to the conclusion almost unanimously that tuberculosis came under the head of preventable diseases, and was most largely communicated by animals to man in some form of food, as in meat and milk, as well as otherwise by bacilli, and was also communicated from man to man. Therefore, as the hon. gentleman has shown how many deaths have been already prevented by the study of hygiene and the precautionary system established in France, it might be shown that if that disease had been more fully studied, a large proportion of those 15,000 people might have been preserved from it, and would probably have been living for years afterwards. The question to which I am confining my attention more particularly, because the mover did not attend to that question so much, the communicability of disease from animal to man, is a matter which it is necessary further to investigate. It is necessary that we should obtain this information from statistics. The belief of medical men now is, that disease can be communicated from an animal to a man, but we want to have the facts, and those facts can be obtained only by a record ranging over a number of years. It is certain that there is not so much tuberculosis in this Dominion as exists in other parts of the world, but there is too much of it. We found last year, that cattle suffering from tuberculosis had been imported into this country, and the animals had to be slaughtered. While I was in England, I called on the Secretary of the Royal Agriculture Society, who asked me to see Sir Jacob Wilson, the president of the society. I did not see him personally, but he writes me:

"The subject (that is, of tuberculosis) is daily

growing in importance in this country, and representations are, I believe about to be made to the Agricultural Department of this Government, from various towns, urging the necessity for legislation thereon. Whether Her Majesty's Government consider the question sufficiently ripe for legislation, I know not, but it appears to me that, sooner or later, the question must come under their serious consideration."

That was signed by Sir Jacob Wilson. I called to see Professor Brown, and I found he was much impressed with the same idea, and, after two or three interviews with him, he drafted a series of proposals to the President of the Board of Agriculture, the Hon. Henry Chaplin, pointing out that these diseases which were known to be dangerous as being communicable from animals to men should be placed on the schedule, and that those animals which were suffering from them should be slaughtered. I could not see Mr. Chaplin, but I saw his secretary. I saw Sir James Caird, and Professor Brown several times. Mr. Chaplin, writing to me, says;

"He is conscious of the great importance of the question, and it is one which will have to receive the careful attention of the Board of Agriculture, when some other matters which are pressing for settlement have been disposed of. Mr. Chaplin is exceedingly obliged for your kind offer of a copy of the report of the sub-committee of the Canadian House of Commons on tuberculosis, which he will most gratefully accept."

I introduce these points now to show that this matter is growing in importance in England, but there is a very serious difficulty in dealing with it in England, which both the Board of Agriculture and the Local Government Board have to face. It is that the Board of Agriculture can only deal with diseases which are communicable between cattle, and the Local Government Board can only deal with diseases in men which are communicable to other men. Consequently, while I desire to see action taken to stamp out these fatal diseases, I should be very sorry that the power should be placed in the hands of any other Department than the Department of Agriculture. I think it is vital that the Department of Agriculture should be charged with the collection of statistics in reference to this, and that, having collected statistics, that Department should act upon them, and should have executive authority to stamp out diseases either in animal or in man, which might pass from one to the other or might affect the health of either. I therefore think it is desirable, that the Federal Government should have this power under the control of the Department of Agriculture, and should deal with it rather than that it should be left, as has