

sponsibility resting upon them within their respective spheres, have already adopted machinery to provide for their local requirements. The matter may, however, be said to be one in which dual authority may be exercised. Not only has each province its sphere of activity in matters of public health, but from Confederation down to the present time the Dominion has been exercising authority in regard to health matters in connection with the various departments of the public service. This question, therefore, cannot be said to be constitutionally a question which appertains exclusively to the province. In order that honourable gentlemen may appreciate the extent to which the Dominion Parliament exercises jurisdiction in this matter I shall enumerate some of the activities in which the various departments of the public service are engaged:

The Department of the Interior deals with the medical and sanitary side of Indian Affairs. The Department of Immigration deals with the inspection of immigrants' detention hospitals, investigation of immigrants' subsequent condition as regards mental and physical health, quarantine arrangements at sea ports and on the frontier, leper lazarettos, administration of Public Works Health Act, inspection of vessels in ocean ports, and supervision of public health in the Yukon territory; the Department of Marine deals with marine hospitals and sick seamen; the Department of Trade and Commerce deals with vital statistics; the Department of Militia and Overseas Military forces deals with the army medical corps and army military hospitals service, sanitation of camps, and food supplies for the army; the Department of Public Works deals with sanitary inspections of public buildings; the Department of Finance deals with infectious diseases transmitted through handling of money; the Department of Justice deals with the sanitation of prisons and the disease of criminals; the Department of the Naval Service deals with the sanitation of ships and food supplies for the naval service, and also with the diseases of fish and health in fish hatcheries; the Department of Customs investigates the quality of dutiable foods and drinks in relation to public health; the Post Office Department deals with infectious disease as transmitted through mails, and the sanitation of post offices. The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment deals with the physical and mental restoration of invalided soldiers; and the Commission of Conservation investigates into general questions of public health.

I quote these various activities of the departments of the public service from the discussion which took place in the House of Commons upon this subject.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: Will the honourable member allow me to point out that in those cases the powers exercised may be considered as accessory powers, but in this case you create a new department. That is very different.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I quite appreciate what my honourable friend from Mille Isles says, but I think I shall be able to show that there will be no conflict between the provinces and the Dominion in the performance of the duties which this department would assume in connection with the administration of the matters assigned to it.

Honourable gentlemen will observe that we are already engaged in a very extended way in the performance of duties concerning public health. Now, it is very desirable that there should be a co-ordination of all those activities upon which the Dominion Government has already entered. It will be quite apparent to honourable gentlemen upon the slightest reflection that there is a sphere of public health into which the provinces do not enter; consequently we may assume that there is a ground which in the interest of the community ought to be covered by Dominion legislation and by the creation of a Department of Public Health.

This brings us down to the question whether there is any conflict between the provinces of Canada and the Dominion respecting the creation of such a department. There is a very well-understood feeling between the provinces and the Dominion as to the necessity of the Dominion Government entering upon this responsibility. There was recently called, at the instance of the Dominion Government, a conference for the purpose of discussing a particular disease, namely, venereal disease, which has become widespread throughout the Dominion of Canada. It is manifestly in the interest of the Dominion that nothing should be left undone to grapple with this disease and the serious results which may flow from it. At that conference the different provinces of Canada were represented. I will not say that all the provinces were, but I understand that there were representatives of all the larger provinces. The following resolution was moved:

Resolution moved by Dr. W. F. Roberts, New Brunswick, seconded by Dr. Gordon Bell, of Winnipeg:

Whereas, in the reconstruction of Canada following the Great War, there are very many important problems that must be taken into consideration, such as finance, soldiers' re-establishment, labour, etc., among these the conservation of the lives and the health of the people is equally if not most important to be dealt with, as Life is the country's greatest asset;

Therefore, resolved, that this conference, whose personnel is made up of representatives from the various provincial Governments of Canada, together with their chief medical officers, assembled at Ottawa this third day of