

It is evident now that the Parliament of Canada could not pass laws that would contravene the Provincial rights, and I may say that on many occasions the framers of the Canada Medical Act were confronted with this awful bugbear. It was thought by some that beneath the wording of the Act there must be some sinister influence lurking that would in some way undermine their privileges. It was not really so, because the Canada Medical Act to-day does not take away a single right of the Provinces, albeit some years were required to be spent to establish the argument.

The first point then is that the Federal Act constitutes a body known as the Medical Council of Canada, giving it powers to create an examining board, and to establish a Medical Register for Canada. The next point was that the standard to be fixed by the Council, the passing of which would entitle the candidate to be enrolled on the Register, was at all times to be at least as high as that obtaining in any Province of the Dominion. If the Council allows the standard to fall below a certain plane, and exception is thus taken to the Act by an aggrieved Province, there is provision in the Act for a tribunal before which the matter is to be heard and settled.

The next point was the composition of the Council. This really gave rise to much controversy owing to the unequal distribution of medical men in the various Provinces and to the fact that if so-called justice was to be done, as regards representation by population, the Council would be an unwieldy, cumbersome body with its efficiency proportionately reduced. It was kept in mind that in this great country where I am speaking to-night the small State of Rhode Island has representation in the Senate equal to her sister States. I submit this subject to correction.