

information might be found which would give a tone and an impulse to the local Associations. Both France and England had taken steps in this direction. He hoped the Committee would report in such a way as to induce the Government to give their attention to the subject.

If a Sanitary Bureau was established, he desired that it should disseminate among the people information with regard to health; should encourage works on hygiene and scientific experiments; should bring about the compilation of statistics and any information relative to zymotic diseases and epidemics of every nature and the best means to prevent their spread; and should consider the diseases common to artisans resulting from confinement to shops and overwork, the drainage of cities, the analysis of the soil, the hygiene of our homes, schools, hospitals, and public buildings, crowding and employment of children in manufactures, and other matters.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

### AFTER RECESS

**Mr. BROUSE** resumed his speech. He said that he believed that in this Bureau could be accumulated facts which would be of very much use in combating that great evil of our land, intemperance. Measures of this sort had been made use of to encourage immigration to Minnesota, by showing that the climate of that State was hostile to consumption, and to Colorado by showing that its climate was a health-giving one for invalids. He believed that we had within our Dominion localities in which the climate was most healthful; and this being the case, it would tend very much to encourage immigration to our shores if steps were taken to make the fact known. He considered the subject a most important one, and hoped the Government would give it their consideration.

**Mr. PÂQUET**, in seconding the motion, said that four Bureaus might be established—one on the Atlantic side of the Dominion, one on the Pacific, one in Montreal, and one in Toronto—and then there might be a central Bureau, to which the most important facts might be sent from the others. He stated that last year England lost 70,000 of her population by zymotic diseases. If we had a Sanitary Bureau such facts as these could be investigated, and preventive measures be more readily taken.

**Mr. ROSS (Middlesex West)** suggested that if such a Department as this was established, the annual returns sent down from it might include statistics relating to the crime of the country. These would indicate the state of public morality.

**Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell)** thought the matter to which the last speaker had alluded did not relate to the subject the mover of the resolution had brought before the House. He thought the House should feel very thankful to the hon. member for Grenville South (Mr. Brouse) for bringing this matter before them. He suggested that a Royal Commission might be appointed to make investigations with regard to the unsanitary condition of the country; and also that steps should be taken to ascertain the healthfulness of Canada as compared with other countries, remarking that it had been found in connection with the army that in

that particular this country stood second among those to which British troops were sent. He thought also that enquiries should be made with a view to the prevention of insanity and consumption.

It was a question whether the establishment and maintenance of a Department like this might not be an unwarranted interference in affairs which were purely local. This was a point which should receive careful consideration.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** said that it was a matter of certainty that this Legislature could not cause the compilation of such statistics as were proposed by the hon. gentleman without going beyond its jurisdiction. That hon. gentleman was aware that in Ontario an attempt had been made to collect vital statistics of a certain kind, and that they had not been as successful as could have been desired. It had been productive of some good, but up to the present time the figures had not been so complete as to be reliable even as far as they went.

With reference to the army statistics, he said that these were not as reliable as some thought. To illustrate this he pointed out that drunkenness depended to a great extent on the facility with which means of becoming intoxicated were obtained, and if soldiers were stationed where they could get liquor easily there was likely to be more diseases than where it was less easily obtained.

The late Government had brought in a measure embodying the principle of this resolution, but owing to the fact that doubts were expressed as to whether the Dominion Legislature had jurisdiction with regard to the subject, it was then dropped. The present Government had not lost sight of the matter, but all he could say at present was that the subject was one which must occupy their early attention. It was not their intention to bring the matter before the House this session, because they had been compelled to confine their attention for the present to such matters as the interest of the country absolutely and immediately demanded at their hands.

The proposition of the hon. gentleman to appoint a Royal Commission commended itself to his (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie's) mind; but he would not at present commit himself to any promise with regard to the matter. If next year the Government found that they had jurisdiction, and could control effectually the means of producing such results as were desired, they would take some such steps as the hon. gentleman suggested. Personally, he had to thank the hon. member from Grenville South, for bringing the matter before the House, and to compliment him on the very able manner in which he had done so.

**Mr. BROUSE** then, with the permission of the House, withdrew his motion.

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### PRIVATE BILLS

The following Bills were read a second time:—

An Act to incorporate the International Transportation association—**Mr. MacKENZIE (Montreal West)**.

An Act to incorporate the Maritime Insurance Company—**Mr. MacKENZIE (Montreal West)**.