

this respect, and these frauds should be looked after by some persons or department responsible for the health of the people. There is also another source of injury to our country which should come under the operation of this department, and that is the practice of sending undeveloped children into manufactories for long hours of labor, and thus destroying valuable lives. There is also the question of sending children to school at too early an age. All these matters should come under the control of a department which should hold itself responsible for the health of the people. I have probably detained the House longer than I should have done, but I am not without hope that something may be done in this matter of public health legislation.

Hon. Dr. Paquet, in French, said—I have seconded with the greatest pleasure the motion of my hon. friend. You have all appreciated, no doubt, as I have, the admirable manner in which he has discharged his duty, and rendered mine comparatively easy, for which I thank him doubly. My hon. friend has perfectly succeeded, I hope, in convincing this hon. House of the necessity of sanitary legislation—that it is necessary there should be an organization, of which Ottawa should be the head, and of which the local legislatures throughout the Dominion should be important members. Consult the history of all civilized countries throughout the world, and it will be perceived that they all appreciate, more or less, the necessity of a similar organization, and it is due to their sanitary measures that we are able to point with satisfaction to the fact that the annual longevi-

ty of the human race, which was in 1880 but 28 years, is at present 34 years. Should we be indifferent to a question of such magnitude, and the only country not to recognize the importance of the services which could be rendered to the public by such legislation? No, we cannot ignore or misunderstand our dearest interests in this direction. . . . Some may raise the question of expense. Well, for my part, I say it would be almost nothing, and there would be no necessity to bleed the public treasury. Have we not already a Department of Agriculture and Statistics; a staff organized which, with a very slight increase, would be able to fill perfectly the blank of which we complain? As for the rest, the expenses would be nothing in comparison with the results. Amongst the benefits which we would secure by such legislation would be improved quarantine, which is much needed; the rendering more healthy of infected centres, the suppression of epidemics, the perfect knowledge of their progress, knowledge of the medical constitution of the different parts of the Dominion, its medical geography, the registration of vital statistics, etc. For the present moment, I would wish that the entire Senate were composed of doctors, and our object would be gained; but I can count as safely upon the high intelligence of its members, belonging, as they do, to all professions and classes of society, who will not desert us in this important matter, and will aid us to achieve success. Let us remember, hon. gentlemen, that we have in our midst contagious zymotic diseases almost constantly, and that the means which we propose to adopt is the only way to