

or by any person or body corporate in such manner and within such time as the commissioner with the approval of the minister shall direct.

As far as the sanitary engineer is concerned, the above clauses must prove of interest, inasmuch as they represent a new epoch in the history of sanitary engineering in this country.

#### Clauses 3 and 4.

As these clauses describe the constitution of the bureau and the duties of the commissioner, it will be of interest to here quote them in full.

3. There shall be a permanent bureau under the minister to be called the Bureau of Public Health, and the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may appoint thereto a chief officer to be called the Commissioner of Public Health who shall be a duly qualified medical practitioner and such other officers, clerks and employees as are necessary for the proper conduct of the bureau, whose duties under the direction of the minister shall be to carry out the provisions of this Act and such other duties as are assigned to them by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council under this or any other Act.

4. It shall be the duty of the commissioner under direction of the minister:—

- (a) To perform the duties prescribed by this Act;
- (b) To keep a record of the transactions of the council;
- (c) As far as practicable to communicate with all provincial or state boards of health and with the boards of health and health officers within the Province and with the councils of cities, towns, villages, and rural municipalities and other public bodies for the purpose of acquiring or disseminating information concerning the public health;
- (d) To inspect all public and charitable institutions, such inspections to be made in accordance with such rules and regulations as may from time to time be prescribed by the minister;
- (e) To perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council under this or any other Act.

Some may consider that the powers given to the commissioner are of an autocratic character, but the Act provides for a council who have power to review the acts of the commissioner and report to the minister.

The following are the clauses referring to the constitution of a council:—

5. There shall be a council of public health consisting of the commissioner who shall by virtue of his office be the chairman thereof and three duly qualified medical practitioners and one qualified veterinary practitioner to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council who shall receive such remuneration as the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council shall determine.

(2) On the first constitution of the council two of the members other than the commissioner shall be appointed for three years and two for two years; and thereafter each member appointed shall hold office for two years.

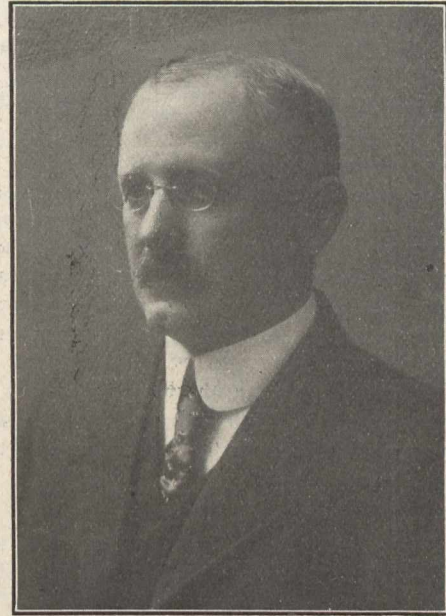
6. Meetings of the council shall be held at such times and places as may be determined by the minister, but at least one meeting shall be held in each calendar year.

7. The council shall at its meetings consider and review all orders, rules and regulations made under the provisions of this Act and shall make a report thereon to the minister with such suggestions and recommendations as to the amendment or cancellation of any such order, rule or regulation the making and issuing of any new order, rule or regulation as it may deem necessary in the interests of the public health.

8. The council shall also consider such matters as may be referred to it by the minister and may also consider any

matter within the purview of this Act as to it may seem fit and shall report thereon to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

The Act is under the charge of the Attorney-General, the Hon. A. Turgeon. The first appointed Commissioner of Health is Dr. M. M. Seymour. The engineering department is under the direction of Mr. T. Aird Murray, M. Can. Soc. C.E., consulting sanitary engineer of Toronto. The appointed council are Wm. I. McKay, M.D., C.M., city health officer, Saskatoon; E. E. Meek, B.A., M.D., city health officer, Regina; A. R. Turnbull, M.D., city health officer, Moose Jaw; F. W. Whybra, V.S., Prince Albert.



M. M. Seymour, Commissioner of Health.

M. M. Seymour, M.D., C.M., first Commissioner of Health, Saskatchewan. Graduated at McGill, 1879. Two years connected with City Board of Health, Montreal, along with present Health Officer. In 1881 in medical practice in Winnipeg, acting as chief surgeon to St. Barnabas Hospital, being succeeded by the famous Dr. A. H. Ferguson, at present of Chicago. Appointed surgeon to the 95th battalion Manitoba Grenadiers, served through the rebellion and received medal. In general practice at Fort Qu'Appelle until 1904, when he removed to Regina to specialize in surgery.

Dr. Seymour has for the past four years acted as chief medical officer of health for the Government under the Department of Agriculture. He makes health matters not only a business but a hobby. An old timer and a thorough Westerner, he is, however, well-known at health and medical conferences both in Canada and the States. He combines along with a broad and up-to-date scientific knowledge, a familiarity with Western conditions, which makes him eminently suited to the post of Commissioner of Health.

The character and working efficiency of the public health act are greatly due to the doctor's wide knowledge of the working effects of other acts in other places.

At present the doctor has a great scheme on foot, to obtain a large tract of land in the hills as a settlement for consumptive patients where ranching may be carried on and the people live under ideal conditions for their recovery.

Dr. Seymour as a medical man appeals to the sanitary engineer, as he does not attempt to pose as an engineering expert as so many medical men are apt to do. For this reason he was one of the first medical officers of health in Canada to insist upon the services of a qualified sanitary expert for Government administration.