

the matter carefully, you will agree with me that these subjects would more properly come within the province of a Federal Government than of the Provincial. I must give credit to the Dominion Government for the systematic manner in which they have already carried on the work of collecting mortuary statistics, and sending out monthly bulletins of those; and I am pleased to know that the statistician of the Government, who is making preparation for the taking of the census of 1891 is now preparing books to be sent out to medical men, in which they will be asked to keep a correct record of the deaths of people whom they attend, the causes of death, the cases of sickness and the length of time those cases have lasted. If this intention is carried out successfully, we shall have some very valuable statistics relating to the causes of sickness and death among our people. Now, in establishing the health department I propose, the subject of the adulteration of food, which is now under the control of the Department of Inland Revenue, and the subject of quarantine, which is now in the hands of the Department of Agriculture, might be taken from those Departments and put under the control of the new Department. Then there should be established in connection with it an efficient laboratory for the investigation of the causes and origin of diseases. Such a laboratory would collect cases from one end of the Dominion to the other, and yet could be carried on at very little more cost than a laboratory for one Province would cost. Now, I have detained the House longer than I intended. I thought, when I rose to my feet, that I would suggest a plan as to how such health legislation should be carried out; but, on giving the matter a second thought, which you know is always best, I have concluded not to. I will be satisfied if I have awakened a feeling on this important subject in the minds of a majority of those present. I have no doubt that the Ministry of the day will devise a plan which will be acceptable to the House and the people of Canada: for I have unbounded faith in our grand old chieftain, who stood foremost amongst our statesmen in bringing about Confederation, and who has so successfully steered the ship of state for so many years. If he takes the matter in hand, I have no doubt but that he will bring forward a scheme by which a federal system of health and sanitary regulations may be established, thereby saving the lives of thousands of our people yearly. Such an achievement would resound to his credit in years to come as great, if not greater, than some of the most important undertakings he has

started and lived to see accomplished. I, therefore, move this resolution, seconded by Gen. LAURIE.

Gen. LAURIE. Mr. Speaker: It may be considered somewhat surprising that I, as a non-professional man, should move in this matter, but it will be in the recollection of some hon. members of this House that, last year and the year before, I acted as chairman of a Committee working under the Select Committee on Agriculture and Immigration, to enquire into the communicability of disease from cattle to man and from man to cattle. That Committee, with a view of obtaining as much information as possible, sent out 1,480 sets of questions to medical gentlemen practising in this Dominion, from which we received 215 replies. Analysing those replies, we ascertained that those medical men believed:

"That from 10 to 50 per cent. of cases of disease and premature death might be prevented by judicious sanitary measures; that consumption is contagious and infectious, and isolation would assist in prevention, but that the chief preventable causes of disease are contagion, impure air and water, unhealthy diet, decaying animal and vegetable matter, bad drainage, general want of cleanliness, and sudden changes of temperature, and the ordinary measures are suggested as palliatives. . . . A few express the opinion that tuberculosis may be transmitted to the human system, as well as diphtheria, by the medium of impure milk and meat; but few have met with actual cases in their own experience of diseases being so communicated. They consider tuberculosis in domestic animals is produced by improper feeding and unhealthy surrounding."

The Committee, in making their report, appended this recommendation:

"We are led further to the belief that our enquiries into the subject entrusted to us would have been much facilitated, and productive of a much greater amount of information, if a system of observing and recording vital statistics were established in the Dominion, and thus preventative and precautionary measures against contagion in any form would be better appreciated and more satisfactorily carried out."

Now, Sir, I do not intend to detain the House by reading statistics or extracts from blue books at any length. I simply wish, in as few words as possible, to give my views on this subject. It may be, as the hon. member has stated, that the duty of looking after the health of the people belongs more to the Provincial Legislatures than to this Parliament. But the duty of bringing immigration into the country, in order to increase our population, has been largely devolved upon this Parliament, and if it is worth our while to bring people here, surely it is worth our while to keep them alive when we have