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Editorial

THE CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION CONGRESS

From December 13th to 15th next, will gather at Montreal in annual session for the first time, the members of this Association, formed a year ago.

It is just twenty-five years since the first Public Health Congress was held in Canada, when the American Public Health Association, which had the year before enlarged its constitution to include Canadian members, held its annual sessions in Toronto in 1886. This was at that time a notable event, creating widespread interest, and proved of great Provincial value, since during the meeting, was organized the Association of Executive Health Officers of Ontario, the reports of whose twenty annual meetings, published by the Provincial Board of Health, form the only compend of practical municipal public health work to be found in Canada to-day.

Yet this Association was limited to Ontario; and Public Health workers in Canada have felt that with the growing sense of nationhood a department of public administration in its essence so peculiarly inter-provincial and national — and, indeed, continental — in its relationships ought to find expression in an organization of national character.

It was this spirit and sense of need for mutual assistance and co-operation, which resulted in the formation in 1900 of the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, whose Annual Report of 300 pages has just been published, and in which the prefatory note states: "Last year's Report showed a well-marked advance all along the line in the campaign against tuberculosis. The progress thus recorded has continued and is yet more striking."

The growth of the national spirit was still more accentuated when in Ottawa, in October, 1910, at the call of the Commission of Conservation of Canada, a Conference of Federal and Provincial Public Health Officers was held and formally organized for future work.

During this conference, through the exertions of the editors of *The Public Health Journal*, published in Toronto, primarily as the outcome of private funds, given through a patriotic sense of duty, those attending the Conference and others were brought together and after discussion resolved themselves into the Canadian Public Health Association, and adopted the *Journal* as their organ, subject to their official supervision.