

were educated on health matters and the cause of disease. Disease knows no provincial or municipal lines. Therefore, health teaching must necessarily fall upon the Federal Government. I believe it is just as essential to have a Federal head or Department of Health as it is to have a Department of Agriculture, or a Department of Inland Revenue, or even a Postmaster General. Each Province now has a Minister of Agriculture or a similar office; still they do not interfere with our Federal Minister of Agriculture. Each has its particular functions to perform. The Department of Health could be carried on similar to the Department of Agriculture. The hon. Minister of Agriculture has had established, since he has occupied his office, a Central or Experimental Farm, with several branch farms in the different Provinces. The object of these farms is to make investigations, so as to instruct the farmers as to the best and most improved system of farming; also the most reliable seeds to sow, so as to produce to the farmers the greatest rewards for their labors; also to indicate the best animals to raise and the best fruits to grow, that farming may be made as profitable as possible. And, Sir, while doing this, is it not just as desirable that there should be a department where useful knowledge could be gathered, useful experiments made, and the knowledge so gained disseminated amongst the people, as to the best mode of preventing disease. During last Session, Prof. Saunders, of the Experimental Farm, informed the Committee on Agriculture that he had imported a variety of wheat from Russia, which he had been experimenting on, and that he believed it was equal in quality to any which we had, and would ripen ten or twelve days earlier, so that it would escape the early frosts of the great wheat-growing districts of the West and North-West. If such proves to be the case it will be worth millions upon millions of dollars to Canada, and the experimental farm should be heralded as one of the grandest undertakings the Government has achieved since Confederation. Now, Sir, if we had a similar place where experiments could be made as to the cause and origin of disease, and especially to that dreaded disease tuberculosis, which is on the rapid increase in our country (more having died from it in Canada last year than from any other one disease.) It is now becoming an important question, and engaging the attention of the physicians and scientists of the world, whether it is communicable from the domestic animals to man. I believe, to-day, the medical men are about equally divided upon the matter. Now, Sir, by

having a place for experimenting ourselves, and collecting the observations of others, it could soon be studied out, whether this disease was so communicable or not, and if it is found to be so without a doubt, it would be the duty of this Parliament to take steps to eradicate the disease from our domestic animals. By so doing they would confer a greater boon on the people of Canada, than the introduction of any kind of grain or fruit into this country. Almost every civilized country in the world, except Canada has some central organization to look after the public health. In England they have their central local government board, presided over by a president, who in both of the Hon. Mr. Gladstone's Governments had a seat in the Cabinet. Prussia, Russia and Austria have their Imperial boards of health. France has a central or federal board, and since it was organized the death rate has diminished in as great, if not greater ratio than in England. In our neighboring Republic they have established at Washington a National board of health, and almost every State has its State board of health. Florida was an exception, and I have no doubt all of you will remember the dreadful scourge of yellow fever they had there two years ago. The Governor of the State was compelled to call the Legislature together in special session to consider measures for the protection of public health: and that time they established a State board of health. It will, for long years to come, be a matter of regret to the people of Florida that, from inexcusable supineness and lethargy, her Legislature did not listen to the warnings of danger, given previous to the year 1888, by her physicians and sanitarians. Had Florida been ready to have availed herself of this, with the assistance of the Federal Government, millions of dollars and thousands of lives might have been saved to the State. Let us take warning from Florida, and not let our young and prosperous Dominion be caught in a similar position if an epidemic should approach our shores. Let us be prepared to meet it at every point. Now, Mr. Speaker, let me draw your attention to what would necessarily come under this department, viz: All health matters, such as collecting mortuary, natal and nuptial statistics, reports on prevailing diseases, quarantine, adulteration of food and diseases of domestic animals. In connection with this department there would be required an efficiently equipped laboratory for the investigation as to the cause and origin of the disease, and the knowledge gained from those sources communicated to the people monthly, quarterly and yearly. Now, Sir, I think if you will consider