

*By Hon. Mr. Lacasse:*

Q. You mentioned that application of that law would be quite hard in regard to distances from central centres; I thought that was quite a plausible argument.

By the CHAIRMAN: Before you came in the question was talked about, and Dr. Bates' opinion was secured in this regard. He thought that physicians would be in a position to secure a sample and send it to laboratories rather easily. The distance could not be very great from any one part of the Province to a large centre equipped with a laboratory. It could be reached within a day or so, at least.

The WITNESS: No, that is not a real difficulty at all. The time that is required for the examination of blood is not very long.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: It takes about a week, backwards and forwards.

The CHAIRMAN: Of course, it is a matter with which Dr. Bates is not concerned, as to whether some centres are provided with medical man, and may be a distance of 10 or 15 miles from a physician which makes it all the more difficult for a young man to secure a certificate. But that is a matter that is up to the Committee to discuss between themselves. Dr. Bates is here in his official professional capacity, and in a medical capacity only. Any other questions, gentlemen?

*By Hon. Mr. Daniel:*

Q. I would like to ask Dr. Bates, in consideration of venereal disease, are there any other expressions of physical disability you would like to have included in this bill in a way you think would improve it? That is, do you think it would be better to add mental deficiency, for instance, and things of that nature?—A. I think all things that are a bar to marriage, from a scientific point of view, should be included. And in addition to that we felt that specializing, so to speak, on venereal disease would make the people feel that we were suggesting that they had been guilty of immoral conduct, and that might interfere with the operation of the Act.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Is it possible to frame the Bill without using the words "venereal disease"?—A. No, I think it should be included.

Q. What Dr. Desloges had in view was to allow the man who was refused a certificate a way of getting away from the accusation that he has syphilis, because it might be some other physical or mental incapacity. He suggests that the words "because of venereal disease" should be stricken out, and it would leave a certain margin for a man who is refused a certificate to invoke that it is not syphilis.—A. A certain amount of propaganda has been waged in connection with venereal disease, and I notice that it is not an unusual thing for people who are thinking of getting married—I have examined a great many of them myself—to have an examination made. In the last five or six years that spirit has been noticeable.

*By Hon. Mr. Lacasse:*

Q. Some statements have been received from the United States, but they speak only of males. According to your statistics what is the percentage of males affected with the disease—is it larger than the percentage of females—syphilitics?—A. Yes, I think so. Later the situation changes, because wives are infected by their husbands.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no question that there are more males affected at the time of marriage than females. Any other questions, gentlemen?