

It became quite apparent that the purport of these clauses was to prevent any medical practitioner from being a director of the company for which he acted as medical advisor, if for such advisory work he received any remuneration.

Medical officers of the various companies in Toronto held a meeting and appointed Dr. T. F. McMahon and myself to lay their views before Hon. W. S. Fielding, the Finance Minister, and the Committee on Banking and Commerce, which was then engaged in the consideration of the bill, clause by clause, and also in the hearing of the opinions of those interested in the bill. Dr. McMahon and I visited Ottawa and laid the views of the medical directors, given us personally or by letter, from all over Canada, before the Finance Minister, Mr. Fielding, and the said Committee. What we said on that occasion is to be found in the proceedings of the House of Commons, and will stand upon its own merits.

In addition to this, many letters were written to Mr. Fielding and other members of the Government, and to prominent members of the Opposition, and also to many members of the Senate. All this had no effect, and the Insurance Bill was put through both the Commons and the Senate in the form as quoted in the foregoing clauses.

In the spring of 1909, it was expected that the bill would then be put through both Houses of Parliament. In addition to every effort that had been made, I sent the following telegrams:

Toronto, May 13th, 1909.

*Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Ottawa:*

I challenge the right of Parliament to say that the Medical Profession of Canada cannot be trusted. The Insurance Bill states this. It allows other classes to receive salary and sit on the boards, but forbids medical men doing so. The bill should be amended to remove this glaring injustice.

JOHN FERGUSON.

Toronto, 13th May, 1909.

*Hon. W. S. Fielding, Ottawa:*

The Insurance Bill does a great injustice to medical men of Canada. It declares them unworthy of trust and cannot sit on boards of companies if they receive any remuneration for services. Other classes may receive salary and sit on boards. This is taking away a privilege when no good can be accomplished thereby.

JOHN FERGUSON.