

provinces have quarantine powers as well. The way that is managed, as I understand, is that the provincial authorities attend to matters of quarantine for themselves and as between one province and another, and the Federal department looks after quarantine as against immigrants or foreigners. As information will probably be asked for on some of these points when the Bill is considered in detail, I will not occupy any more time in this way, except to say that I think the new Department of Health has a very great and very important work before it, if it is to carry out its duties in such a way as to have a beneficial effect on the health of the country. It will be necessary I think to spend a good deal more money for the benefit of the public health of this Dominion if we expect to lower the mortality rate which now afflicts our population, and I, for one, have much pleasure in supporting the Bill which is before the House this afternoon.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, I think there is very much to be said in favour of the Bill which is now before us. My only fear is that the Federal organization that may be created may clash with or overlap the provincial organizations. However, my honourable friend (Hon. Sir James Lougheed) has stated that the intention of the Government is to utilize the machinery already in existence in certain provinces, and I believe that if the Government works hand in hand with the provinces and strengthens the provincial organizations instead of ignoring them, results will be obtained with much less expenditure than would otherwise be necessary. I know that the older provinces, at all events Ontario and Quebec, have their Boards of Health, and have their own legislation regarding a number of matters which are mentioned in this Bill. The medical profession in our cities is quite enthusiastic in their work, particularly in endeavouring to conserve the health of the child; and if the Federal Government can enlist the co-operation of the provincial representatives and ascertain in what way the present system can be improved in view of the experience gained in other countries and in certain of our provinces, I think the country at large will benefit greatly from the work of co-ordination done by the Federal Government.

The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read the second time.

S—19½

JUDGES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. W. B. ROSS moved the second reading of Bill C2, an Act to amend the Judges Act.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, in moving the second reading of this Bill I have only to remind honourable members that a Bill of the same nature passed this House last year and subsequently went to the other House. It died down there, with quite a number of other Bills that were sent down. I do not know just exactly why it died, or of what disease, or whether or not it was killed with malice aforethought.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It probably met the fate of other innocents.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: I do not believe there is any one here to-day who was not here last year, when the principle of the Bill was discussed, and, as it will be necessary, I think, to discuss the sections more fully in Committee, I intend to make my remarks with regard to the Bill very short.

The Bill consists of two parts. The first section deals with a subject that has no connection with the rest of the Bill. Honourable gentlemen know that prior to the passing of the Judges Act, chapter 138 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, judges were pensioned after 15 years' service. A judge who had been on the bench 15 years was entitled to apply for his pension and retire; or, if he had not served that length of time, but was affected by some physical infirmity, he could present a doctor's certificate and was allowed to retire on two-thirds of his salary.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Does the honourable gentleman read the law as entitling the judge who had been fifteen years on the bench to a pension, or—

Hon. W. B. ROSS: As a matter of right?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: As a matter of right.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: Oh, no; but as a matter of practice he did receive it. The law read that he could apply. I think that if the Government of the day insisted that he was well and that he should remain on the bench, he could not obtain his pension; but that was never done, and as a matter of fact he retired at the end of fifteen years.

It appears that at the time of which I am speaking—away back at the time of the passing of chapter 138, when the salaries were small—there were quite a number of judges who held on to their positions