

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: But he refers to that.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, in particular.

*By Hon. Mr. Schaffner:*

Q. I suppose there are other cases which are not hereditary?—A. Yes, that happens sometimes. But as a rule they are not acutely infected cases. An acutely infected case gives a positive, nearly always.

Q. They last many years, do they not?—A. Yes, many years.

*By Hon. Mr. Daniel:*

Q. As I read this bill I would judge that if it became law every couple who wished to get married would, of necessity, have to go to a doctor and be examined, and have their blood examined, because otherwise the doctor would be unable to certify that the patient or person was clear of the germ of venereal disease. Do you agree with that meaning of it?—A. Yes, I think so, yes.

Q. That is all I can make out of it. It would compel everybody, man and woman, to go and get a certificate to show freedom from venereal disease, and the only certificate that would really be of any value would include a blood examination?—A. There is another thing, also, Mr. Chairman, which has not been discussed, and that is that there is another disease—gonorrhoea.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Yes, I was going to refer to that.—A. It seems to me there is need of the people learning that it is a serious factor in bringing about blindness.

*By Mr. Daniel:*

Q. What would be your opinion as to the effect of the passage of such a law on public opinion in Canada, when the people understood that thereby every man and woman would have to undergo a blood examination for syphilis. How is a doctor going to tell whether a man or woman has gonorrhoea without a physical examination?—A. He cannot tell.

Q. Cannot be done?—A. No.

Q. So that that would mean if this Act or Bill becomes law every man and woman would have to submit to a personal examination for gonorrhoea, and a blood examination for syphilis?—A. Yes, I would think so.

Q. That is what it means?—A. Yes.

Q. I think that would be a pretty difficult proposition.

Hon. Mr. RILEY: And a very unpopular law.

The CHAIRMAN: It requires complete physical examination of the party by a Doctor, besides the securing of a sample of blood. And if it applied to both male and female it would be a good deal harder to deal with. One can just imagine what the situation would be.

The WITNESS: The only difficulty I see is the matter of public opinion. Theoretically there is no question that if a procedure of this sort should be carried out it would solve many very, very serious problems that are existing.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. I think we all share your view in this regard—theoretically speaking there cannot be any very serious objection to it.—A. Similar bills have been brought up in the Ontario Legislature on several occasions. As a matter of fact, one bill got as far as the second reading.

*By Hon. Mr. Schaffner:*

Q. But what happened to it then?—A. They were afraid of public opinion.