

*By Mr. Chabot:*

Q. Do you suggest that that should be done?—A. I would be very glad indeed to see it carried out.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. We are dealing entirely with the matter from the standpoint of providing pure water for the people of Canada. Now, in order to carry out the desired object some of us think it would require a trained staff of men, trained for that special purpose, who know the conditions and would be able to offer proper advice to the different municipalities.—A. Do I understand that these men would be employees of the Government?

Q. They might or might not be. Let me ask you this question: Would you consider it wise that the Government should create a staff of Sanitary Engineers in Canada to take control of the whole situation that we have been discussing?—A. If the whole of these men were to be placed under a single body, if that is possible, it would involve the oversight of the water supply in districts all through the country. That should be directly under the authority of the supreme body referred to, and these supervisors should be trained as sanitary engineers, or, at any rate, as sanitarians. That means as much training in biology, chemistry and other subjects as it does in engineering.

Q. These men in order to be able to act intelligently and to determine how the law should be enforced should be trained men, they should be conversant with the whole subject of the building of water purification and sewage treatment works, and be able to advise municipalities on the subject.—A. For the enforcement of any Act that may be enacted I think that is very necessary.

*By Mr. Northrup:*

Q. I suppose that local medical men, or local engineers, would be competent to carry out the orders given by the central board that has been referred to?—A. That is local engineers who have made a speciality of this branch of engineering.

Q. Do you think that if such a Board were created, with trained officers, and was operating efficiently, its labours would affect the death rate?—A. Yes, it would to a very great extent. There is a fine field for such a body.

Q. Can you give us any idea as to what the probable diminution in the death rate from typhoid would be if the Government took hold of this question and dealt with it systematically and successfully?—A. I think it would reduce the death rate to one third or one fourth. Not only would the average death rate be reduced but the danger of epidemics would be greatly diminished, and in many cases would be prevented altogether.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Is there anything else you wish to say?—A. There is something I might say in connection with the training of men for the purpose of administering and enforcing the legislation that is now proposed. Something along that line has already been done by the Board of Health of the Province of Quebec. Some years ago, for the position of sanitary engineer for that Board we employed a young man who had been trained in an American College in that special narrow branch which comprises partly engineering, and partly general sanitary science, to act for us. At the same time we selected a graduate of one of the universities, in civil engineering, and sent him to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to take lectures and a course of sanitary science there. We paid his expenses and his fees at the Institute, and at the same time employed him during the summer vacation, which is four or five months to work in connection with the young man from the American College, with the idea of the former taking the latter's place as soon as he was

MR. R. S. LEA.