

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

WEDNESDAY, May 9, 1928.

The Standing Committee on Public Health and Inspection of Foods, to whom was referred the Bill "D" intituled "An Act to make Venereal Disease an Impediment to Marriage," met this day at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT:

The Hon. Mr. Béland, Chairman.

The Hon. Messieurs Bourque, Daniel, Lacasse, Riley and Schaffner.

Doctor GORDON BATES, General Secretary of the Canadian Social Hygiene Council, Toronto, Ontario, was called and testified as follows:—

By the Chairman:

Q. Will you give the Committee the particular position you occupy at the present time?—A. General Secretary of the Canadian Social Hygiene Council.

Q. With headquarters at Toronto?—A. Yes, also director of the Venereal Disease Clinic at the General Hospital, Toronto.

By Hon. Mr. Daniel:

Q. Are you conversant with the different Provincial legislations in regard to this matter, in matters similar to the one treated in this bill?—A. That is, Canadian legislation?

Q. Yes?—A. I know something about it; I cannot say that I am very familiar with it.

Q. Do you know of any Province that has some legislation dealing with the production of a certificate before marriage?—A. No.

Q. Have you any idea of what the Alberta Statute is in this connection?—A. No, I think Dr. Hincks will know more about that than I do.

Q. With regard to the United States, have you any information you can supply the Committee in this connection?—A. I have the summary supplied by the American Social Hygiene Association of the legislation in about 20 states; shall I give you that?

Q. Have you the names of the United States?—A. Yes.

Q. Just enumerate them?—A. Well, there are different types of legislation.

Q. Yes, but just enumerate the different States.—A. There is Alabama, Louisiana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Maine, New Mexico, Virginia, Washington, New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Vermont and Utah. These different States enumerated have legislation of one type or another. The legislation differs in each State.

Q. In regard to marriage, or venereal disease?—A. Both.

Q. With regard to venereal disease, as affecting marriages?—A. Yes.