

cent. In Switzerland a similar result has followed. Returning to the continent of America, we find that the Republic to the south of us has been establishing State boards of health in connection with her Federal Hygienic Institute, and in the State of Michigan the mortality has been reduced 17 per cent.; in Massachusetts, 23 per cent., and in the different other States the reduction has been in proportion to the care and attention given to this important subject. The experience of all other countries, therefore, proves to us that the adoption of a broad sanitary system has been beneficial, and is it not time that we, in Canada, should consider the matter? It is true that we have Provincial Boards of Health doing an admirable work; but in conjunction with them, I think we should have a National Health Institution, which would direct hygienic investigations. This Government assumes part of that sanitary work, to-day, in the collection of its statistics, but we believe that this work should be extended, and that we should not only collect such statistics as have been, so far, obtained by the Minister of Agriculture, but that we should have reports from the various Provincial Boards of Health, and embody these reports in our own—not only reports of mortuary statistics, but reports in connection with those zymotic diseases which are so destructive, not only in towns and cities, but in rural localities as well. The Federal Government now goes a little farther than this statistical work, and we have a Department for the purpose of analysing adulterated food. That is really done for the purpose of preventing disease. Therefore, at present, this Government are attending to two branches of this important work, although not to such an extent as we believe they ought to. If, under the Federal system, we are entitled to attend to other branches of the subject, why should we not go a little farther and attend to those which are equally, if not more, injurious to health, than the adulteration of food? It appears to me that it would not be interfering with the rights of the Provinces to do so. I think that some understanding might be arrived at between the Provinces and the Dominion so that they could co-operate with each other in doing this work much more efficiently than it is done to-day. Our sanitary legislation is yet in its infancy; but, notwithstanding that, I believe that great good has been already accomplished. We believe that at least a quarter of the deaths which take place in the country might be prevented if we attended to this matter on a larger scale, and sought the co-operation of the medical men of the country. If we

can prevent one death out of every four which takes place now, it means, as my hon. friend said, a saving of 20,000 lives to the state every year. If we could, how much better would it be for the state than the importation of 20,000 immigrants? Those now living in our country, acquainted with its ways and manners and customs, are schooled in all which enables them to add prosperity to the state, and to make life a success in the Dominion of Canada. I, therefore, say that the saving of these lives would be of much more value than the importation of the same number of individuals from any country. In addition to that we would prevent a great amount of human suffering, and save to the state the large number of days' labor which is lost every year, by reason of the sickness which results from preventable diseases. There is no doubt that every serious case of sickness tends to make life shorter to the patient, and even after the recovery the system is not usually so strong as before to resist the ravages of disease. How important, then, is it not? that the state should establish some institution which would co-operate with the local boards of health in combatting these serious diseases which are so prevalent to-day. It is a fact which every medical man in this House will admit, that diphtheria, one of the most prevalent and destructive diseases we have in the Dominion of Canada, might be reduced fifty per cent. if only proper precautions were taken to prevent its spread, and to stamp it out in any locality where it may become prevalent. We have a competent board of health, we have not one case of diphtheria, where we had three or four some ten years ago. That change has been brought about very largely by the perfecting of these local boards of health and by compelling the local municipalities, as soon as any epidemic disease shows itself in a locality, to report it to the local board of health. We have no statistics or reports showing where diseases are most prevalent, so that something might be done to stamp out any disease as soon as it makes its appearance. That might be done with regard to small-pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough and other epidemic diseases which sweep over the country with such destructive effects. I think the Federal Government should take some action in this matter. I think they have power, under the British North America Act to do so; and if they have not the requisite power, I think it is high time that steps should be taken to have the constitution so amended as to give them power to co-operate with the Provincial Governments