

PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION IN MANITOBA.

Public health matters are receiving fair attention in Manitoba. We have received from the "Department of Agriculture, Statistics and Health" (that reads more like "business" than anything relating to health we have Eastward), Winnipeg, a synopsis of a new public health law for Manitoba. Following are some of the principal provisions :

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint a medical practitioner as Provincial Health Superintendent, and determine what salary shall be paid him. The Superintendent shall be subject to and act under instructions from the Department of Agriculture, Statistics and Health. He shall see to the observance of the provisions of the Act relating to the public health and the management of hospitals, and shall act as inspector of hospitals and other charitable institutions as provided by the Charity Aid Act. He shall take cognizance of the interests of health and life among the people ; shall especially study the vital statistics, and endeavor to make an intelligent and profitable use of the collected record of deaths and of sickness ; shall make sanitary investigations and enquiries respecting causes of disease, etc. * * *

The Department may send the Superintendent to any part of the Province to investigate the causes of disease. The investigation may be taken upon oath. The Superintendent may administer the oath. * * *

Each county council shall, at their first meeting after the passage of the Act, and at their first meeting in each year thereafter, appoint a health officer, who shall, wherever practicable, be a properly qualified medical practitioner, to carry out and enforce the provisions relating to the public health. Adjoining counties may unite in this. Should any county council neglect to appoint such an officer, it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to appoint one, and to determine the amount he shall receive for services, which shall be paid by the county.

Every health officer shall be subject to, and act under instructions given him by the Superintendent, and shall report to the Superintendent annually, and at such other times as may be required, regarding the prevalence of epidemics and the progress of sanitary work. Any health officer neglecting to perform any duties required of him, shall be liable to a fine of \$100.

The requirements of the other portions of the Act are similar to those of the Ontario Health Act, though some of the provisions are more stringent, as in regard to selling, hiring or letting infected clothing, vehicles, rooms or houses. Stringent regulations in regard to vaccination are included.

Previous to the formation of the Ontario Provincial board of health we strongly advised that instead of a board being organized, a medical health officer be appointed in connection with one of the departments of the Government, as being simpler and more in accordance with English precedent. We are glad Manitoba has taken this course. We advised however in connection therewith an "advisory" committee of physicians of standing, who should meet once or twice a year or oftener and consult with and assist the chief officer. Manitoba might find such an advantage.