

that the Federal Department of Health will interfere with the enforcement of the health laws of the provinces. That is not the intention. Some years ago, shortly after I first came to this House, there was a meeting of the Conservation Commission. All the provinces were requested to send their health officers and members to that meeting. All the provinces were represented, and I presume that it was the recommendations and the motions passed at that meeting that have led the Government at this very late date to form this department. As I said before, the idea is simply to get the representatives of all the provinces here once a year or oftener, and to issue regulations that will prove satisfactory to all the provinces, and to ensure that those regulations shall be uniformly carried out by the provincial health authorities.

With reference to what has been said by the honourable gentleman from St. John (Hon. Mr. Daniel), the health officer in any city may do as I have done many a time. For instance, if a train on which there are passengers suffering from a contagious disease comes into my city, I simply have the car taken off and quarantined with every one in it. That is within the power of the health officers of every city, as given to them by the provincial governments. Under this Bill the laws will be rendered uniform.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: I do not think that the honourable gentleman from St. John and I differ to any extent. There may be some difference between the way in which the officials at St. John and the officials at Halifax carry out their duties. If that is so, I am sorry for St. John, because our men in Halifax are all right. This Bill, if I understand it, is going to supplement and make more perfect the regulations which we now have, by means of co-operation with the local authorities.

Speaking of transportation, so far as Halifax is concerned, the authorities there are in perfect shape for taking care of any persons with contagious diseases coming there. While the Department of Agriculture cares for them and looks after them and sees that they do not get away from the officer before they are in a healthy condition and free of any possibility of carrying contagion with them, the transportation company pays for them. I take it for granted that whether the authority remains with the Agriculture Department, or whether a new department is created, this legislation will be of great assistance, and the Dominion authorities, who have not been

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doing as much as they might have done, will now do more.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: I shall be very glad indeed if the Dominion authorities will do so. I am not opposed to their making that a part of the duties of the new department. All I want to know is whether they are really going to do it or not. As I read the Bill, it makes it imperatively the duty of the new Health Department to look after these matters. The Bill says:

Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, particularly the following matters and subjects:

—of which one is the supervision of health matters in connection with railways, boats, ships, and all methods of transportation. If that is done, it appears to me that the local authorities will no longer consider themselves bound to look after those things, and the whole duty will fall upon the health authorities here. The health authorities here do not have somebody in every place, as the local authorities have, to see whether things are being properly done. If it is to be understood that the Dominion authorities are going to do that, the local authorities will not do it, and there is no reason why they should.

Hon. Mr. POWER: I just wish to call the attention of the honourable leader of the House to a word that is used here, which, if the Bill should be amended by the committee, I think deserves consideration. The Bill speaks of:

The supervision, as regards the public health, of railways, boats, ships and all methods of transportation—

Should not it be all "means" of transportation to harmonize with what has gone before? They are not supervising the methods; they are supervising the instruments—railways, boats, and ships. If there should be any other amendment made, I think the minister might consider the propriety of substituting the word "means" for the word "method."

Paragraph d was agreed to.

Paragraphs e and f were agreed to.

On paragraph g—administration of certain Acts:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I should like to ask my honourable friend if that paragraph does not limit the power of the department to a considerable extent. If the department is to have the power of dealing with the question of health generally, why should it be specially designated as dealing with those four or five Acts?