

Speech of Hon. Dr. R. A. Pyne, Minister of Education

YOUR Excellency, your Honor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: I can assure you it gives me very great pleasure to-day to be here to witness the opening of this great institution, which I believe will be for the great good of this province. As one of the medical members of the Government of this Province, I perhaps am in a position to realize the gigantic work that has been undertaken, the enormous work, I may say, of fighting this dread disease that has invaded this country as well as every other.

I may say in making provision for this great fight that I quite realize what your Chairman has said, and what all my predecessors in addressing you have said, that the one thing needed is financial aid. They have done a great work in bringing it to the notice of the public in their own way. They are philanthropic gentlemen, gentlemen of big hearts, such as Mr. Gage and Mr. Hammond, and in spite of a little cut in school books that the Chairman speaks of, I hope he will go on prospering and be able to give hundreds of thousands where he has given fifty already.

As I say, it reminds me of what the Hon. Mr. Chamberlain said in addressing a large audience in the City of Birmingham on that pet subject of his, "Preferential Trade within the Empire;" he said that he delighted to think England and all the Colonies were becoming so friendly that they would appreciate the motto, "Let us buy from one another." I say, Mr. Chairman, that I think this great work has advanced so far that the municipal bodies and the federal bodies, the provincial bodies and the civic bodies should live up to that motto, just changing it in this way, that we should all join in that great work and help one another. That is the motto that I would suggest, "Let us help one another in this great work."

Let me say in conclusion that I trust the result of this vast gathering to-day will be that great attention will be attracted to this plague, as it has been called.

The statistics are very alarming; recently I had occasion to look into the statistics of the mortality from this cause alone in the four States, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. I was looking at it from the point of view of the department over which I preside, because a great deal can be done in the public schools of this Province in fighting this great question.

It has been brought to the attention of the medical men of many countries that we are too lax in our medical inspection, will I say, of the school children in this Province, and with this subtle enemy it is hardly fair to put the responsibility on any teacher, now that it is looked upon by scientists as being one of the contagious diseases, and often hard to diagnose in the early stages. It is pretty hard, I say, to