

must be uniform for the larger community of people as comprised in a State, Dominion or country in order that they may be efficient, but in so far as the higher power enacts these laws for various municipalities whose councils change from year to year as the municipal elections recur, so the administration of the laws are subject to more or less change. And further, as the inhabitants of a State, Dominion or country are really residents of different municipalities for longer or shorter periods of time incident to the many modern means of transit it is essential for good government, for the affording of the highest protection to all, that, while details as to the adoption of any particular set of health measures must remain with the municipal authorities, yet the supervision and the power to enforce, if necessary, should be vested in and the power judiciously exercised by the Government which enacts them, but the expenses of their enforcement should be a cost chargeable to and collectable from the municipality which fails in their enforcement, otherwise it will be found that municipal authorities will readily yield up their duties to the larger and more powerful central body.

In public health matters the municipality would naturally be expected to work out its own salvation. The common health interests of the individuals living in the municipality, both men and women, and particularly the children, being of such moment as to require the rigid enforcement of the most modern health requirements.

But it is too often the case that local health by-laws or codes of health, although upon the face of them bearing the impress of all that is good for the community, yet in the method of enforcement or the manner of inspection are in the end really a farce, and the strong arm of the Government, which created their local powers must for the general good retain the power of enforcement.

In conclusion, a short reference is desirable to the responsibility of the national Government in respect to all that appertains to the health of the people. It will not suffice for any Federal Government to say that the question of public health is relegated to this or that particular State, provincial or territorial legislature—that the health of any particular city, or country, or geographical district is a local matter and does not concern the people of any other portion of the country, and if the local authorities will not engage in the solution of their own particular district the national Government should not. This is a false premise, for many public health questions are national in their import. Indeed, we may go further. Many health questions are international, and can, therefore, only be dealt with by nations; for instance, the sewage pollution of the waters of the Great Lakes of this continent, regarding which we in Ontario are deeply interested. The preservation of these waters from pollution by sewage is of interest and import to all who live along their shores, as well as the hundreds of thousands who yearly visit them from all portions of the civilized world. The many points involved in the question cannot be dealt with by the Province, but must be considered by the nation. It is to the national Government we look for a protection as regards the health of those who seek homes in our midst; that responsibility has in part been acknowledged; but cannot we go further? What of the valuable lives born each year to the fathers and mothers of this country? Are they not a more valuable asset than all the immigrant population? Truly, the wealth of the nation is in its babies, and, being national, the Government which represents that wealth should do more in their behalf. Here, in Canada, the national Government has in its wisdom set an example by taking over the health of our cattle, which is a part of our national wealth; but what of the people's health? Have they no interest therein? Time fails me to indicate all their responsibilities. Surely the physical conditions are at least of national import, and should have a properly constituted National Health Department, working in co-operation with provincial, State or territorial departments aided by municipal local health authorities and carefully guarded and directed by public opinion.

In conclusion, public health is pre-eminently a national question, although requiring the assistance of State, provincial and municipal machinery and laws for the proper and efficient working out of methods and the enforcement of laws for the betterment of communities, and it may be necessary for good and efficient government that well-defined lines shall be laid down upon which each of the several governing or legislative bodies in a country shall have power to legislate upon and the limitation of enactment be clearly defined, but for the better enforcement of health laws there must be some central authority, clothed with proper power to act when either individual, municipality, or Province fail to enforce laws adopted for the protection of the health of either an individual, community or district.

It is essential for the carrying out of all laws which in any way relate to the public health that such power be retained and exercised by the national Government, it is essential for the protection of the health of each individual.

Consequent upon financial losses in respect to national wealth as regards agriculture, horticulture, stock-raising and the great manufacturing industries and other branches of national wealth, Legislatures and Parliaments devote annually large sums of the public monies for the improvement of all these branches of the wealth of the nation—colleges have been erected at public expense and large sums appropriated for their maintenance, chiefly devoted to the branches of agriculture; universities have set apart departments to foster agriculture and forestry, and every nation has departments of Government under Cabinet Ministers for the fostering and improvement of the branches of national wealth, but how many have a Minister of Public Health? But few. Or how many have the various branches relating to the health in one large sub-department? But the all of public health is not in the statutory powers of the Government. There are many and great problems of public health that have yet to be worked out, and in the solving of these problems much research work, much experimental work has to be instituted and carried on, many social sanitary problems have to be studied, all of which require the expenditure of money and the engagement of a staff of the best experts the nation can engage. Certainly, the physical training and developments of both boys and girls must be worked out upon national lines. In my opinion, as regards the boys, the best results and at a minimum cost can, and should, be at once secured by some form of modified military drill. It will be necessary that many of the vaccines, serums and antitoxines used in preventive medicines should be prepared by the State at the expense of the people and distributed to local authorities at cost, as the almost prohibitive prices of commerce prevent their general use.

The State must provide well-equipped laboratories. It will not do for any country to rely upon the benevolence or generosity of philanthropists for the studying of the many questions relating to preventive medicine; these must be carried out by the national Government, as they have for their highest object the health of the people, which means its highest wealth.

Surely this is a fit, a proper sphere for the nations of the earth to work in—none higher, none better, and none of more moment or greater import. The greater the nation and the more dense the population, the greater the present responsibility, while for a young nation, one looking forward to vast increases in population in the coming years, the importance of public health questions is of vital importance as it is entering the threshold of national life, and to a nation such as we Canadians have the honor to form a part there is every necessity for the creation of an Imperial Health Bureau, with its unit in every branch of the Empire, each working in harmony with the General Bureau, and each doing its part of experimental and research and laboratory work. That which may be most fittingly and appropriately worked out by each particular branch, all co-operating and assisting to solve the intricate questions, all of which have for their object the health of mankind and the prevention of sickness and suffering.