

Department the Dominion Government is to undertake to safeguard the public health of this country, the first thing, or one of the first things, to be done is to deal with the housing problem. The Government is, I think, entitled to a great deal of credit for having during this present session adopted measures which will help considerably in improving the housing conditions in the various provinces. In my opinion there is nothing that will do more to improve the health of the people of Canada than the improvement of housing conditions, especially in the congested parts of the cities. Not only is there congestion in the cities, but out in some of our rural communities, even out in the prairie provinces, I have no doubt, where land is plentiful, some of the people live in small, inadequate quarters, in which they ought not to be allowed to live at all, and that is, I think, one of the reasons why the mortality rate is so very high. Our summers may be hot, but our winters are cold. In the winter time, while the air out of doors is healthful and invigorating, ventilation is cut off, and so much time is spent indoors that our people are breathing foul air for a much greater proportion of their lives than one would naturally suppose before taking the matter into consideration.

The honourable leader of the House referred to a number of important services and institutions connected with the various departments of the Government in which medical matters are already dealt with. When the main estimates were brought down I took the trouble to pick out the amounts that were to be appropriated for purely medical services in the different departments, and, although I did not include the Army or the Navy, and did not even include the immigration work of the Department of the Interior, still I found that in the other services the Dominion is now spending over one million dollars on medical matters. It was a surprise to me. I found that for medical attendance and relief for the Indians alone, we are expending in Ontario and Quebec \$28,000, in Nova Scotia \$6,000, in New Brunswick \$5,000, in Prince Edward Island \$850, in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories \$108,696, in British Columbia \$53,200, and in the Yukon \$1,000.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Has the honourable gentleman calculated the proportion of that expenditure for the Indians per capita?

Hon. Mr. DANIEL:

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: This is all for medical attendance.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But what would it amount to per capita?

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: I have just taken these figures from the main estimates that came down this year; I tried just to pick out what was to be expended on medical matters—for medical relief and that sort of thing. For the purpose of combating the spread of tuberculosis among the Indians \$10,000 has been provided; for the control of other infectious diseases among them there is another \$10,000; making a total amount of \$242,746—just for medical relief among the Indians.

Hon. Mr. McSWEENEY: Can the honourable gentleman state what proportion of that amount has been spent on the Indians of New Brunswick?

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: Yes. New Brunswick, \$5,000 for medical relief for the Indians.

Then there is an item for marine hospitals of \$78,000, and for quarantine, and for the lazaretos at Tracadie and Darcy Island, \$241,000. The total expenditure for purely medical purposes is \$561,746. In addition to that, \$442,000 is to be spent in administering the Meat and Canned Foods Act, which is a medical matter in a way. There is also for the Department of Trade and Commerce, Bureau of Vital Statistics—which is a necessity in any health work—an appropriation of \$108,227, and for the laboratory branch of that department, \$50,725. So, either directly for medical attendance and relief, or for other matters connected with public health, we already spend \$1,081,000, not taking into consideration the medical services of the army, the navy, or the Interior Department, which would make the total very much higher. As I understand, the matters to which I have referred—marine hospitals, medical relief of Indians and all allied subjects—will come under the new Department of Health.

There is undoubtedly, at all events when the situation is looked at superficially, a difficulty in defining the respective duties of the provinces and the Federal Government. I do not know how that can be arranged except by a sort of gentleman's agreement among all the provinces and the Dominion as to how affairs shall be conducted. At the present time quarantine is under the Federal Government; still the