

BILL AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE
BY THE HONOURABLE
2nd Session, 18th Parliament, 1928

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

THE SENATE, CANADA

THURSDAY, June 7, 1928.

The Standing Committee on Public Health and Inspection of Foods, beg leave to make their Fourth Report, as follows:—

In obedience to the Order of Reference of the 13th March, 1928, the Committee have considered the Bill (D), intituled "An Act to make Venereal Disease an Impediment to Marriage."

At the request of the Committee the following members of the medical profession appeared before the Committee, namely:—

- Dr. Gordon Bates, General Secretary, Canadian Social Hygiene Council, Toronto,
- Dr. C. M. Hincks, Medical Director, Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene, Toronto,
- Dr. F. N. G. Starr, President, Canadian Medical Association, Toronto.

From the evidence adduced the Committee are convinced that before legislation of this character can be effectively enforced public opinion must be in favour of it, and of this the Committee have not sufficient evidence. The Committee is of opinion that in this regard the co-operation of the medical profession is essential.

The Committee are satisfied that to successfully combat the spread of venereal and other diseases legislation along the lines proposed by the Bill is required, but the Committee are inclined to the view that the including of females in the proposed medical examination is perhaps premature and would create an antagonistic attitude on the part of the public.

With a view to securing further and fuller information on the whole question the Committee recommend that copies of the Bill and the Committee's proceedings be furnished to the Canadian Medical Association and others for an expression of their views, and pending receipt of such additional information the Bill be not further proceeded with.

All which is respectfully submitted.

HENRI S. BÉLAND,

Chairman.