

working families amounts to £20,000 per day, for each day of sickness *plus* the loss to the employers and so forth. The cost of the Health Department of Manchester for last year was £87,000 for hospitals, disinfection, drainage, sewerage, and so forth. The saving of life effected is estimated by the best statisticians at 2,301 lives, one thousand of these being between twenty and seventy years of age. The total saving was £300,000 obtained at an expenditure of £87,000.

As I have already intimated, I believe it to be the duty of the Government to establish on a firm basis a Department for the collection of such statistics as sanitarians wish to use; mortuary statistics of themselves are not sufficient, we want vital statistics, we want reports of births and marriages, of epidemics and of the ravages of preventable diseases throughout the country, and then we will have a foundation upon which the Provincial authorities may act if we do not act ourselves. I have no doubt whatever that this Government has full authority to institute measures to educate the people on this subject. There is nothing to prevent the Dominion Government spending a large sum in the distribution of weekly or monthly bulletins and reports relating to epidemic diseases throughout the country, and the distribution of literature teaching the people the various methods by which these diseases may be prevented, and also to provide for the establishment of a hygienic institute and bacteriological laboratory for the investigation and prevention of these diseases: and in that way they can do a very large amount of work which is now attempted to be done by the Provincial authorities, and thus perform at one centre what otherwise will have to be done by each province. So far as coercion and the enforcement of different measures are concerned, I grant this rests with the municipalities, acting under the Provincial Legislature. That portion of the work can safely be left to them, but that is no reason why this Parliament and this Government, acting in concert with the Local Legislatures, cannot very largely increase the efficiency of the regulations now existing in this country. It had been said, that this question is always lightly considered by Parliament. I am sorry to say that, in the past, this has been the case; but I trust the time has gone by when the Parliament of Canada will treat lightly such an important question as that now under discussion. In every Province, and in this Dominion, we find the legislatures almost unanimously adopting measures to prevent death from contagious disease in animals when an outbreak occurs, and

this House should not be more negligent in undertaking similar measures when the human family is concerned; and we are well aware that if an epidemic among cattle occurs in any district, an officer is at once despatched to ascertain the cause, and to take such steps as are necessary to prevent the spread of the disease. Even simple isolation, if required by statute and enforced by the municipalities, would in almost every instance, cut short the ravages of many of the fatal epidemics which have carried off thousands and tens of thousands in this country. I am heartily in accord with the object aimed at by the mover of this resolution, and I hope that the Government, although they may not see fit to accept the motion as it is worded, will take the subject into consideration, and that in future Sessions we shall see an increasing interest taken in this very important subject.

DR. SPROULE said: The only excuse I have to offer to the House for occupying its time in discussing this question, is the importance of it. An able writer once said that health is the *summum bonum*, and that, when lost, no consideration is too high for its restoration. In all well ordered and civilized countries where the Government of the state is discharging its duty to the people, one of those important duties is to guard the public health. Governments are said to be entrusted with the protection of the life and property of the people. It is not simply that life is to be protected from the hands of the assassin, but it is likewise to be protected from those lurking diseases which prevail in different parts of the country, and which carry off their victims by thousands. I recognize that it is as much the duty of the state to protect life from these diseases as it is from the dagger of the assassin. England considered this question over fifty years ago, and owing to its importance, entered upon legislation to remedy the evils and prevent these diseases. From that time to the present over fifty Acts of Parliament have been passed in the direction of establishing health bureaus or hygienic bureaus for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of the people or preventing the spread of disease. England has been legislating on this question for a great many years, and the result has been that she has reduced her rate of mortality something like 23 per cent. France has dealt with the same subject in her great hygienic institutions, and the result has been a reduced mortality of over 17 per cent. Germany has dealt with the subject in a very elaborate and comprehensive way, and the satisfactory result has been obtained of reducing her mortality 22 per