



O T T A W A, 7th. July, 1890.

My dear Sir William ; -

I duly received your letter of the 1st. inst., with its enclosure certifying to the capabilities and fitness of Dr. Wyatt G. Johnston, the Demonstrator of Pathology in the Medical Faculty of McGill University, for a Government position in connection with the prevention of cholera.

I did not immediately reply for the reason that I desired to think over the matter, which I may say to you, presents difficulties. I may explain that on the occasion of the last visit of cholera, there was a Dominion Board of Health, composed of Medical experts, affiliated with this Department. That administration, ~~however,~~ was in virtue of a clause in the Act 31, Victoria, Chap. 53, but this clause was repealed by the Act 35, Victoria, Chap. 27. This repeal effected the depriving of this Department of the public health functions, which it formerly had, and

and relegated them to the Provincial Governments. It was explained in Parliament by the Government at the time, that the object was to remove from the Dominion Government the importunity of many demands from the Provinces in relation to Public Health, which were found to be both expensive and difficult to manage properly. You will see therefore, in so far as the Statutes are concerned, that the Dominion Government has no longer in its hands the administration in relation to Public Health proper; its administration being confined to questions of Quarantine, strictly speaking. It is not my purpose to discuss here the merits of the action which was taken; I simply wish to give you the facts.

This legislation does not, however, exhaust the matter as far as the administration of the Dominion Government is concerned, for the reason that in virtue of the British North America Act, the jurisdiction with respect to Public Health matters is joint between the

the Dominion and the Provinces; and it is a fact that since 1872, the Dominion Parliament has passed many votes, making appropriations for Public Health matters. But what I think is that, in view of the legislation to which I have referred, the Dominion Government would be very slow to step in to relieve the Provincial Governments of their responsibilities in Public Health matters, as now exercised by them.

I may say to you that the greatest exertions will be made to perfect the Quarantine arrangements at Grosse Isle, to prevent an invasion of Cholera. The necessary orders have already been given. Dr. Montizambert has not so far asked for any strengthening of his staff.

The Minister of Agriculture is at present absent from the seat of Government, but I will communicate to him your letter and enclosure on his return, and what I have written to you in reply.

Pray excuse this long letter, but

but I could scarcely have given you my explanation in fewer words.

Believe me, &c. ,

Yours truly,

J. P. Lowe
J. M. D.

Sir J. W. Dawson,

&c, &c,

McGill University, Montreal.

Lucie
de Cholon

McGill University, Montreal.

211 J. W. Dawson

60, 60,

relative no. 60,

young family.

words.

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