

medical profession, on some of the matters referred to in the circular.

The complaints made by the Association may be briefly stated as follows :

1. That the Medical Council has made a serious blunder in erecting a costly and unnecessary building, and have generally conducted the business of the Council in an expensive and extravagant manner.

2. That to meet the expenses thus incurred, they have imposed upon every physician who wishes to practise his profession in Ontario, the compulsory payment of an annual fee, the highest possible they were by the law allowed to impose, namely, the sum of two dollars.

3. That the Medical Council is composed according to law of twenty-seven members ; seventeen elected by the profession, and ten elected by the medical schools and universities ; that under this constitution the schoolmen have secured an undue influence in the Council, and that consequently the profession at large may be unable to obtain a remission of the annual two dollar tax referred to.

The above statement, I think, fairly covers the whole ground of complaint. Everything hinges on the two dollar fee, because if that is not objected to, there can be no difficulty in handling the real estate acquired by the Council.

It will doubtless be said that, admitting that this two dollar fee for an annual certificate is a very trifling matter considering what other professions have to pay, and admitting that it would be ridiculous to take exception to it, if it were applied to any necessary or useful purpose, that does not justify its exaction when but for reckless speculation and extravagance it would not be required.

That is true, and I wish to say on this point that there has been neither reckless speculation nor extravagance. Reckless and extravagant charges have been made, but I regard it as impossible for any man to look at the facts carefully, dispassionately and impartially, without coming to the conclusion that they are wholly unfounded.

Aside from the building question, the moderate increase of the general expenses has, in my opinion, been amply justified by the increased efficiency of the work done. There is no room here to enter into details, but anyone who will look into the matter cannot fail to be convinced on this point.

Now as to the Council building. Well, notwithstanding the opinion attributed to Dr. Burns in 1889, and notwithstanding the collapse of the Toronto boom, the building stands to-day a successful investment, and an evidence of the wisdom and prudence of the Committee of the Council, of which I was not a member, who carried through the undertaking.

I need not go into figures to show this. I do not fear to challenge the opinion of any real estate or financial man in Toronto to prove it. The simple facts that the Council paid \$750 a year for unfit accommodation, that to carry this building at the present time only involves an additional expense of \$300 a year over the \$750, and that the accommodation is far more than worth the additional money, settle the whole question without taking into account the large expected revenue from offices yet to let. The suggestion of the Medical Defence circular to abandon the property to the mortgagee, a property which to-day would be a snug fortune, although subject to a \$60,000 mortgage, is an illustration of the extravagant kind of statements they have resorted to. Indeed the whole attack of the Association upon the Council consists of a cloud of wild and extravagant statements. Evidently conscious that a large majority of the medical profession of Ontario would probably regard the great benefits secured to the profession by the Medical Act, as cheaply obtained by the payment of a trifling annual fee of \$2, they endeavour to excite indignation and alarm by asserting that this fee or tax is "liable to be at any moment increased to \$10, or \$20, or \$50, to be spent in Toronto real estate."

A cause must be weak indeed which has to be promoted by such a statement, which is not only wildly extravagant but which is absolutely wholly untrue. They know perfectly well that it is absolutely impossible that the fee or tax can be increased beyond two dollars.

There are doubtless many members of the profession who will say that, granting that there may be really no just grounds of complaint against the Council, and no good reason why a small annual fee should not be exacted from the profession, nevertheless, now that the question has been raised—would it not be well "to have the Medical Council reconstructed so as to make the medical