

ance of the clergy, because, possibly, the clergyman may be the only person who would be likely to give the required information with anything like reliability.

There is one clause in the bill as submitted which, we think, requires careful consideration. We copy it in full so that there may be no misunderstanding as to our meaning. At section five it is stated: "5. Under the authority of this Act there shall be established and carried into effect a system of registration of marriages, births, and deaths throughout Canada, and a system of collecting, compiling, tabulating, and publishing agricultural, industrial, and other statistics." We cannot see what benefit is to accrue by combining the agricultural statistics with those purely vital. The latter should be separate and distinct from the former. The growth and produce of the country is of great importance. No doubt it is very necessary to show the gradual and steady increase in wealth, and the agricultural facilities of any country; for if a country cannot show a probable chance for yielding support to increased numbers in population it cannot hold out inducements in favour of emigration. But it must be admitted that unless it can be shown that emigrants, when they land, will be under as favourable salubrious conditions as they were in their own native country, they will not emigrate. These statistics appear to go together, but we fear that embracing too large an area will do more harm than good and lead to serious errors.

There is another point we would draw attention to, as it seems very odd; clause twenty-five states: "Every clergyman, every medical practitioner, every representative of an institution, of a corporation or company, who shall furnish to a Registrar the information contained in sections thirteen, fourteen, and fifteen, of this Act shall receive for each such detailed information, dictated or given in writing with attestation, to the satisfaction of the Registrar of the subdivision concerned, and upon the certificate of the Superintendent Registrar of the division a fee of *ten cents*." Now, we think that this information should be compulsory, with a penalty attached for neglecting to give the required information.

Again, in the case of burials, it should be enacted that no keeper of a burial ground should, under any circumstance whatever, permit the interment of any body recently dead unless there is a certificate touching the cause of death, from a regularly licensed medical practitioner; failing such the coroner of the district should be compelled to hold an inquest; or, in other words, that no dead body should be permitted to be interred in any cemetery or burial ground except on the certificate of a regularly licensed medical practitioner, or on a coroner's order.