

lines of self-interest, of monopolies and aggrandisements in our race to be rich and prosperous and great fortunes have been the aim, attraction and reward of our skill and labor, consequently we have large estates, splendid corporate establishments, a perfect system of railways, and with all this, when we think of the condition of our roads it is a reflection on our pride. We appear to have forgotten that the grand principle of civilization is the ease and readiness with which the people communicate and interchange. Our enthusiasm responds too readily to the prick of self-interest, and to this end it injures and sacrifices important public considerations. Public thought must be stimulated on this subject and public action must be demanded, the necessity of determination in the improvement of country roads is not fully appreciated. What we have done towards the construction of our railways which has added so much to the wealth of Canadian agriculture must be repeated on the wagon roads to the railway, the factory and market.

By long use of bad roads, by ignorance of good roads, by close attention to personal affairs, necessitated by keen competition, and the lack of time to discuss public questions, the farmers have allowed this sort of thing to go on from year to year, and municipal councillors have betrayed the trust which honest farmers have placed in them. They have violated their obligation to further the interests of their constituents. They have stubbornly refused to entertain any suggestion for an improved system. They have scorned the idea of new plans. They have discouraged education along the proper lines to secure reform and in fact they are responsible for the waste of millions of dollars of the public taxes and millions of days of the farmers' labor with nothing to show for it in the wet season of the year, in the majority of our roads but a bottomless mire. These facts have been drawn to the attention of the farmers by the Good Roads Association in the war, which for the past three years, they have been waging, with the result that we now find the demand at our council board is for men of a progressive spirit whose interest in the affairs of the municipality is beyond the degrading influence of petty office, and who will handle the affairs of the municipality as they would a private enterprise, looking to the best interest of each member of the corporation and striving to discover the latest improved means and methods for their benefit and convenience.

Then we will have uniform plans laid down for each municipality, under which the work will be properly and systematically performed. The people's labor and money will be wisely and judiciously expended, and in a short time this obstacle to the Canadian farmer will be removed and he will take his rightful place among the business enterprises of the country.

County Medical Health Officers.

The secretary of the Provincial Board of Health summarizes the advantages that would be derived from the appointment of County Medical Health Officers, as follows:

1. The position would be permanent during good conduct and efficiency.

2. The devotion of all his time to the duties of the position would serve largely to remove one of the greatest existing difficulties to effective action on the part of medical health officers, owing to their being in general practice, and therefore professional rivals to other practitioners, who are naturally sensitive to interference on his part.

3. By being engaged in investigations in a laboratory equipped for the purpose, he would be brought into friendly intimacy with local practitioners, whose time and opportunities are too limited to enable them to satisfactorily prosecute microscopic, chemical and bacteriological work.

4. By being within easy reach of all parts of his district, he could, without delay or expense, have sent to him specimens of diseased tissue, membrane, sputum, suspected water, milk, etc., and promptly determine the true nature of the disease or its cause.

5. His laboratory would become a local depot of supply for vaccine, anti-toxin, culture tubes, disinfectants, etc., and the means for their prompt and efficient use.

6. He would be within telephone call of an hour or two's ride of the several municipal sanitary inspectors, who would be placed under his authority, and prompt action in any outbreak of disease would be possible.

7. He would systematically attend to and practice vaccination in all the schools of his district, and be in a position to attend the occasional cases of small-pox which from time to time occur, to the great relief of the local practitioners, and the notable saving of expense, such as during the past year, amounted occasionally to \$20 per diem for attendance upon a single case.

8. He would gradually accumulate data for the preparation of a sanitary topographical map of the Province, in which the character of the soil, the drainage areas, the height above sea-level, the mill-ponds, and much other invaluable information, from the sanitary standpoint, would be supplied.

9. He would, through his inspectors, be able to obtain an accurate registration of mortality and morbidity statistics, and thus supply the only means by which we shall ever be able to adequately interpret local conditions in their effect upon the public health.

York county council has passed a by-law abolishing toll-gates.

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Inspector Hamilton, of the Registrar Generals Department in his report of last year's work, stated that he had visited one hundred and seven division registrars and that with very few exceptions none of these officials keep a duplicate copy of the returns of births, marriages and deaths sent to this office, but they are almost unanimous in the opinion that it would be much more satisfactory if a book were provided for that purpose. The majority consider it would be an advantage to the municipality, if a copy of the returns could be seen within their own borders.

It is of vital importance that a book should be kept for each division registrar, but I would not recommend the adoption of this, unless at the same time the fee for registration be increased.

I have now visited all sections of the province, and find that the difficulties of securing full returns are much the same in the several localities. These difficulties have been fully dealt with in previous reports, so it is unnecessary to repeat them here, but I will briefly summarize what I consider the best means to be adopted to make the returns at all reliable in the hope that the Department will take up the matter during the coming session.

(1) The fee for registration should be increased.

(2) The amount due each division registrar by a municipality, as shown by certificate from the Registrar-General, should be a lien upon said municipality until paid, and no mutual agreement for commutation should be considered legally binding upon the division registrar.

(3) No certificate for payment of these fees should be issued by the Registrar-General until he is satisfied that every return has been made as complete as under the circumstances may be possible.

(4) Each division registrar should be supplied with properly ruled books, in which to keep duplicate entry of each birth, marriage or death received by him.

(5) The duties and powers of division registrars should be more clearly laid down than they are at present.

(6) Prosecutions should be made by the Department. The division registrar should be relieved from this duty, but be compelled to send names of delinquents to the Inspector.

(7) The medical profession should be given clearly to understand that there are certain duties in connection with the Registration Act which they are called upon to perform.

(8) Steps should be taken by means of notices in the local papers, posters, etc., to let citizens know that several changes have been made in the Registration Act, and that all the provisions of the said Act are going to be strictly carried out. Probably the most effective way of doing this would be to institute a series of prosecutions in different sections of the province.