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THE SUPREME COURT OF ONTARIO
(Hon. Mr. Justice Riddell)



OSGOODE HALL,
TORONTO.
April 26th, 1932.

The Right Honourable Arthur Meighen,
The Senate,
Ottawa, Ontario.

My dear Mr. Meighen:-

About thirteen years ago, the Government of Canada caused an organization to be formed to combat Venereal Diseases; this was thought imperatively necessary by reason of the alarming discovery during the War that our effective fighting strength had been reduced at least thirty per cent. by these diseases, notwithstanding the rigid examination that had been made of recruits before enlistment or sending across the Atlantic.

Of this Organization - which I had no part in forming - I was elected President, and this position I have continued to fill until the present. Some years ago, we obtained incorporation, and, to avoid being hampered in our work, we adopted the name SOCIAL HYGIENE COUNCIL.

Our organization has actively carried on the work of health education throughout Canada, with the result of saving thousands of lives and hundreds of thousands of money to our country. This work is far from complete, and may be said to be just begun.

Until last year, we received a grant from the Dominion; but last year, presumably from reasons of economy, our grant was cut off, and as a consequence our work had to be curtailed. The grants to some similar bodies were continued in whole or in part. We do not complain of this being done, it is wholly wise and proper; but we cannot understand why we should be differently treated.

Unless we receive a grant from the Government, I fear the worst. Most of my services (of course, gratuitous) will be rendered nugatory and our work of education will cease. Can Canada permit this?

No one questions the extreme value of the services we have rendered; no lawyer will imagine that it is not a work which the Dominion may aid; and I appeal to you to do all in your power to have a proper grant made to us for the current year.

I am making this appeal to you personally; I should not do so were I not impressed with the extreme importance of the work which is imperilled.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

William Rensell Riddell

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