

An example of how the Statute is made inoperative is in evidence in the city of Toronto, where, last year, the enlightened (?) Board of Education repealed the law in respect to vaccination in the schools. One of the most influential journals in the city thus refers to the matter :

“VACCINATION IN THE SCHOOLS.

“It is a reflection on the intelligence of Toronto that vaccination in the schools is not compulsory. There should, at least, be an attempt to repeal the reactionary resolution which the Board of Education adopted a year ago. We may admire the zeal and respect the motives of the anti-vaccinationists, but there is too much at stake for us to submit tamely to their authority. There is danger that if we persist in the policy of non-vaccination some future epidemic will enter with such deadly effects into our schools, factories and great business establishments that our growth will be retarded, our industrial interests imperilled, and our trade connections broken for a decade.”

The city of Montreal had its lesson. There in 1875 there were anti-vaccination riots, and as a consequence most of its younger population were left without the protection of vaccination. In 1885, smallpox was introduced from Chicago. It landed upon fertile soil. Three thousand one hundred and sixty-four persons died of the disease; of these, 2,717 were children under ten years of age! While the fearful loss of life was by far the most serious matter, there was, in addition the ruin of the city's trade and the loss of millions of dollars. History has a trick of repeating itself, and who can say that Toronto or any other place, whose rulers are so culpably and wilfully ignorant, may not suffer in a similar manner. The value of vaccination has been so often and thoroughly tested that it seems nothing less than criminal that the existing laws are not strenuously enforced. Fortunately for our people, the epidemics of smallpox which we have had in Ontario for the last five or six years have been of a mild character, and thanks to the vigilance of our health authorities have been vigorously stamped out, but the cost has been considerable. Of the total sum of two hundred and ninety-one thousand dollars (\$291,086.48) spent by the Province for health purposes in the last twenty-five years, \$49,270.71 was expended for the control of smallpox, and this but represents a small portion, because the greater portion of the cost has been borne by the various municipalities involved. For example, in my own town, five cases cost in the neighborhood of \$800, not to speak of the loss of trade which existed for months. This is but the usual experience of hundreds of places throughout the Province. A thorough vaccination and re-vaccination would ere long stamp out the disease if we are to be guided by the experience of other countries which