

methods for lessening the spread of disease which is causing directly or indirectly probably one-fifth of the total deaths in the Dominion."

How the association can best attain the aims it has in view is a matter for the experts present here to-day to consider, but whatever conclusion they may come to as to the best means of combating the evil they have to face, the success of their efforts must to a large extent depend on the assistance and goodwill of the public itself. That that public should fully realize the danger which surrounds it, will be one of the main objects of the association.

The miseries of consumption, many of us know too well. The fading away of many a charming young life, the breakdown of many a manly constitution, but I do not know that we have yet looked beyond our individual griefs to realize the ravages of the common enemy.

Even now, we have not perhaps fully accurate data to go on, but we believe that the early settlers on this continent were a healthy race; we are proud of this health-giving Dominion of Canada, and yet we know that this terrible consumptive death rate is steadily increasing.

I am told that 10 years ago the annual deaths from consumption in Ontario were 2,400; in 1899 they were 3,405; from 1887 to 1898 they amounted to 31,699, and I believe the annual estimate now of deaths from the same cause in the whole Dominion is between 7,000 and 8,000.

One very suggestive, and very encouraging piece of information given to me is that over the period I have just quoted to you, viz., from '87 to '98, when the consumption death rate of Ontario amounted to 31,699, deaths from smallpox were only 31.

I say encouraging, because we all know something of the now almost traditional horrors of smallpox, and can gratefully recognize what vaccination, quarantine and reasonable precautions have done for us.

And now science comes to our aid again and tells us, that though the germs of this deadly consumption can be communicated from one person to another, or from animals to human beings, that still it is without doubt a preventable disease; that with certain precautions, ascertained by modern discovery, its inroads can be arrested. These precautions the association will do its best to promulgate.

You are fortunate in Canada in possessing an excellent system for the administration of matters of public health. You have both your provincial and Dominion machinery, the former thoroughly capable of dealing with detailed organization, whilst the latter can do everything to ward off the importation of disease from outside, and can, so to speak, do very much to assist and direct the general policy of the campaign.

I have no intention, gentlemen, of entering into any detailed consideration of the spread of consumption or the manner in which your future