

a tea-meeting at the church, and I would like to go," so I stayed at home and minded the children. Now, I am not telling you this in order to give you an excuse for staying from the meetings or from church either (laughter). This subject of ventilation is one which I have found very hard to deal with during the last two or three years. It has always seemed to me there was something wrong about the ventilating system of a great many public buildings, particularly did I notice this in the Public Reference Library. In fact, when I was given my present undertaking, I was put up against a very hard proposition, one that for a long time, as the fellows say, kept me guessing, to know what was actually the matter. People used to come to me and tell me that the ventilation in the public buildings in this city was awful. I got out of patience altogether and I said, on more than one occasion: "You don't know what you are talking about; there is a big fan in the cellar blowing fresh air up all day. It must be all right." I continually put that argument up, but eventually it was borne upon me that there must be something wrong. You all know the Toronto Public Library, one of our largest buildings, and a building both large, up-to-date, and built in good style, but there was evidently something wrong with the ventilating system. By watching carefully and applying myself assiduously to the task, I pretty nearly discovered what the matter. Now the paper I am going to read to-night is not, as I have already said, prepared quite as carefully as I would have liked to have had it.

The subject which I am to speak on to-night is a subject of vital importance to the welfare of the people of Canada. As the masses of the people who live in our large cities work in its large office buildings, factories, shops, stores, etc., particularly our public schools (for there is nothing more important than that the young blood of our country should live and be instructed under proper conditions), we must see to it that they not only have the correct amount of air but that the air is properly cleansed and humidified.

It is my intention to-night to explode a bomb in the camp or rather in the midst of the standard that has been taken for ventilation, if I can only find words to express my thoughts.

I fancy I hear a low voice saying, "Ventilation." Why need we be so concerned about ventilation? Our forefathers and the strong men of days gone by did not need large fans to ventilate their places of abode. Why? These men worked and lived in the open air in comparison with our men of to-day working in factories, office buildings, stores, etc. So as our large buildings spring up and our cities become more crowded, our modern civilization demands of us proper ventilation.

First let us consider why we need ventilation and let us see