

## BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

### TO THE MAYOR AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS.

As Cholera has been, since a few days, more and more imminent, and may break out at any moment in our midst, it becomes a pressing duty to protect ourselves and to take, in each municipality, those measures which will prevent its spreading in the province with its usual devastation.

The present will indicate to your Municipal Council and its local Board of Health, what preventive measures must immediately be taken to protect your fellow-citizens from the dreaded disease. The Law gives you all necessary powers to insure the sufficient protection of your municipality, and it is your duty to use them in the interest of the whole community.

### PRELIMINARY PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CHOLERA.

1° Have your Board of Health in readiness to enforce the execution of our by-laws; appoint a reliable Health officer—preferably a physician, if there is one residing within the municipality—and let him and the Local Board exercise strict surveillance over the whole municipality, so as to be able to act at the first occurrence of the disease. In thus organizing your defence in advance, you will not be embarrassed in a case of emergency.

Your local Board must meet, at least, once a week, and even more frequently, if necessary, to study the sanitary condition of your municipality, and see to the execution of the measures hereafter described.

2° Have the water examined, and see that every family be supplied with pure unpolluted water; remedy all possible cause of pollution, this being of especially great importance when Cholera is about. Cause all suspicious wells to be emptied, cleansed and disinfected with lime, and order the filling up of all wells in too close proximity to stables or privy-pits. If water-works exist in your municipality, see that all those who cannot pay for their water be supplied at the expense of the municipal corporation, at all events during the prevalence of Cholera, so that each family will have pure water.

3° Have an inspection made of all dwellings, cellars, dependencies, yards, alleys, stables and other buildings, drains, sewers, gutters, sinks and privy-pits, in short, of any place or thing which may, by its unsanitary condition or faulty construction, become injurious to health. These places must immediately be rendered healthy, so that all what is liable to become a breeding place for Cholera germs may disappear.

Consequently, you must ascertain that all cellars, yards, alleys, stables and other depend-

encies be thoroughly cleansed and kept clean, that filth of any kind be burnt or removed and buried. Every day, kitchen and other refuse must be likewise burnt, or collected in a box to be removed, and its contents buried, in order that no decomposing matter may remain near dwellings.

Order all manure to be removed from the vicinity of the house, all drains and sewers to be put into perfect condition, and privy-pits to be emptied and disinfected.

Stagnant pools of water and street ditches containing liquids in putrefaction or sewage must receive your careful attention. If impossible to fill up, the pools must be rendered as healthy as possible by drainage or disinfection. Street ditches must be cleansed, especially in towns and villages, and the draining into them of slops, urine, and particularly the contents of privies, must be stopped.

4° Have an inspection made of all markets, factories and cemeteries in your municipality.

Ascertain, every day, through your inspector, that no animal or vegetable refuse remains inside or outside markets. Order any such refuse to be burned or buried. Have the meat, vegetables and fruits offered for sale examined, and, if found to be unsound and dangerous, have them confiscated and destroyed.

Enforce the observance of the sanitary requirements of the laws respecting factories and work-shops. No dirt or refuse must be tolerated inside or outside the buildings; the privies must be kept in a perfect condition; there should be no overcrowding and no accumulation of manufactured goods, in order that occupants may have all available breathing air.

See that cemeteries be in such a condition as will prevent their becoming a source of infection to the neighborhood, and, above all, let them not contaminate, by their drainage, any well or other source of drinking water.

5° In order that all these preventive measures, although preliminary yet so important, be conscientiously and effectually executed, it is necessary for your Health Officer to personally visit each house and working establishment, and give the instructions needed in each place for the guidance of those living or working there, so that, knowing what is expected of them, they may act accordingly. Give your careful attention to everything, and suffer no negligence from any in the performance of their duties.

### PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN WHEN CHOLERA HAS MADE ITS APPEARANCE.

1° Institute an active surveillance so as to be able to discover and control any doubtful or genuine case of Cholera. Bring before the