

reasonable time being given him to enable him to fit himself for the work.

"All the foregoing anticipates an increase of the burdens of the most overburdened and unremunerated of public servants, and I will breathe easier if I am assured that there is not present in the audience a member of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, otherwise I might be ordered under immediate arrest.

"If you will bear with me for a few minutes I will tell you a tale of unrequited love. I have for a long time felt a great curiosity to know just what the medical health officer received for his services, and how long a so-called Christian people would stand by and see him grow fat on the east wind.

"For the purpose of getting information on this subject, I recently addressed a circular to thirty-five cities and towns in the Dominion having a population of 5,000 and upwards. Replies from twenty-seven of these give medical health officers' salaries ranging from zero to \$3,000:

1	gives.....	\$3,000
1	" .....	2,400
3	" .....	1,000
1	" .....	800
1	" .....	400
1	" .....	300
1	" .....	250
4	" .....	200
1	" .....	120
4	" .....	100
1	" .....	25
1	" .....	1
7	" .....	0

"The last of these, no doubt, are men who have discovered some pabulum other than bread and butter on which to sustain life in this cold, cold world.

"The aggregate sum paid to medical health officers is \$11,496. The inspectors fare a little better. There are more of them. Six manage to maintain the dignity of their office on no salary. The whole sum paid

inspectors is \$25,326. But it is the secretary who is the Croesus of the health office. This officer has actually absorbed \$2,725 of the people's money, and nineteen of them 'cut no figure at all' on pay day.

"The population on which these figures are based gives a total of 809,061, representing an assessment of \$418,160,672. This would show five cents per capita, and one-tenth of a mill on assessment to sustain our present municipal health organization. If the public ever blushed, this statement should make its face scarlet."

These statistics sufficiently illustrate the situation as it existed in 1891, and which has not, so far as I am aware, improved since in any notable degree in the matter of increased grants as salaries to medical health officers, although a general improvement in the character of the work of local Boards can, I think, on the whole be seen.

Comparison of the health work of our municipalities with that of other branches of municipal work during the last ten years, may, I think, be made, and I believe it may be fairly asserted that progress in it is as great as in other directions; but we have only to examine into the details of the work in any except our cities and perhaps larger towns in order to see how little exact health work is done.

Let me summarize the work of a medical health officer as it exists in England and elsewhere.

(a) To inform himself respecting all influences affecting or threatening to injuriously affect the public health within the district.

(b) Ascertain causes and distribution of diseases actually existing within district.

(c) He shall inspect periodically, and as emergency may require, his whole district.

(d) He shall advise the local Board on all matters and supply data for prosecution wherever nuisances exist.

(e) Shall advise in the framing and execution of by-laws.