

Many other figures would be necessary to make complete the total persons in some way engaged in public health, religious, charitable and social work, such as the total members of boards of health and sanitary inspectors, the number of layworkers in churches and religious orders and the many charity workers in our cities and towns; but each of us can easily form some estimate of what these are. Now, what we have especially to note is, that while we probably have in our rural areas, which constitute say at least 60 per cent. of the population, and that while probably two-thirds of this is actually agricultural and one-third in villages, yet very few of those representing in any way the educational or professional or social worker persons in these communities reside actually in the townships.

Such then is the constitution of municipal and social forces of the rural communities of Canada, varying but little in the newer provinces except in so far as the population is more sparse and more widely distributed. Indeed these very facts are making the need for newer methods in social evolution there so evident that in Manitoba, district nurses have already begun the work of inspection in schools, and following into their homes those children whose physical and mental needs call for attention. In Saskatchewan already twenty district hospitals have been constructed and it is expected that within two years as many more will have been established at convenient centres, to which physicians will send their patients for treatment under a regular nursing staff, who will also gradually undertake social work by district visiting; while, in addition to this necessary work, Alberta is developing social centres by having erected a "Home House" for the several school teachers of adjoining sections, added to which will be the district social nurse.

Reverting to the old East, it is apparent that for many years the loss of many of the young people of its rural population has become in many districts, little less than a war tragedy. It is as if an extended war conscription had robbed the countryside of 10 per cent. of its young adolescent population in ten years, since in some counties of Ontario this loss has been at least 1 per cent. per year. Closely examined, this condition is both an effect and cause of a social disintegration and destruction of an old time rural life, rich in numbers, in energy, in hope and in action. We have no time to enter upon an explanation of its causes; but I propose to enquire whether its reconstruction cannot be brought about by the coöperation of forces already present. It is abundantly