

other circumstances being the same, vary in proportion to the congestion of the population, so that the prolificness should be greatest where, in equal spaces, the numbers are the largest. This view of Mr. Sadler is not borne out in Canada, where the birth rate has maintained its high ratio, even with numbers, to a district relatively increased.

This is not the time nor the place to speak of that disturbing element which, in this mixed assembly, I dare not even name, beyond qualifying it as the demon of prudential desire of limitation, which does its cursed work in certain sections of this land—will you pardon me if I say, on the authority of some of your own distinguished medical writers, in many and large sections of your land. I said certain sections of this land, and certain sections only, for in this, our country, while there are isolated spots, here and there, in certain of our cities into which the foul thing has crept, there are hundreds of thousands of miles where the nameless and shameless crime is unknown. The natural increase of one section of our population—the French section—is almost unparalled in the history of the world, doubling itself in some districts in fifteen or sixteen years. The offspring of sixty thousand of a century and a quarter ago are now counted by between two and three millions. May not this pregnant fact be due to some extent to another fact to which I may allude: the women lived happily at a time when uterine troubles were not fashionable, and when the ovaries and tubes were not considered *de trop*. Among the English-speaking population the natural increase is also large, much indeed what it is in the more fruitful parts of Great Britain, Ireland and Russia.

Some little uneasiness is being expressed at the large death rate among children. No doubt the death rate is large, and especially in cities; but it is large, chiefly because the birth rate is large; and not from any inherent vice of constitution; or vitiated environment; or climatal condition. Dr. Larocque attributed the high death rate in children to overfeeding, and to the use of food of too strong