

The Canadian Association of the Prevention of Tuberculosis

In the report of the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis which was presented at the annual meeting, the executive gives a record of splendid work well done in the elimination of consumption from our midst. It is now sixteen years since this excellent society was founded to work up an intelligent public interest and to secure real co-operation throughout the Dominion in fighting the insidious disease. The success of the continuous campaign is best evidenced, in the following figures:

In 1908—250 beds in all Canada.

In 1911—900 beds in all Canada.

In 1916—2,000 beds in all Canada.

But the best work of the association would seem to be in its educational work—real preventative medicine for tuberculosis. The report on this point says:

"During the past year we have published our Annual Report in English and in French, and have already distributed some 10,000 copies of our pamphlets on ventilation, about 2,000 reprints, a thousand books on treatment and over 100,000 leaflets. The requests for literature come from the most obscure country districts as well as from public libraries and social workers all over the country. Over 60 public libraries in the United States have requested copies of our reports."

And as an indication of the future operations of the society the report further says:

Our Association has frequently received requests for some form of tuberculosis exhibits to be used in instructing school children, or to be used at health lectures, at county fairs, and at various educational conventions. We have, therefore, decided to prepare a number of duplicate sets of these exhibits which can be placed in small parcels and sent wherever requested. These should prove of great assistance in teaching this important subject, and also add greatly to its interest. Such exhibits will do away with the necessity of lantern slides which cannot always be conveniently used.

These exhibits will consist of maps, charts, statistics and photographs helpful in explaining the disease, its prevalence and methods of prevention, and as we hope to have them arranged and catalogued, so that a layman can easily understand and explain them, they should prove great advance in our educational work."

We have before today urged municipal councils to do all they can—and they can do much—to help on the good work, for even 2,000 beds are not near sufficient to meet the demand, and while out of five new hospitals opened last year one was contributed by the City of Quebec, much more might be done by municipal authorities in the interest of the health of the community.

Lord Shaughnessy and the Future of Canada

Lord Shaughnessy, who recently made an inspection of the great railway system of which he is the head, has been giving some homely advice to the people of the West in regard to the near future of Canada. Essentially an optimist of the practical kind the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway sees great prosperity for this country but he was emphatic in stating that we must depend on ourselves more than we have done in the past. "We must try to frame our own policy," he said, "and must try to carry it out vigorously, receiving of course such advantages as may properly come to us. But our own capacity for business, our own organizations and our own energy are the factors that will determine what is exactly the amount of progress we are going to make." These words should be at once a warning and stimulus to the public men and leaders of industry in the Dominion who are counting too much on the gratitude of the Old Country for the sacrifices that Canada has rightly made in men and money. The British people will have enough to do in repairing the economic destructiveness of the war in their own country, and for which they are already preparing, and it is up to us to do the same in Canada.

Lord Shaughnessy gives as a basis of any policy of preparedness the necessity of the right kind of immigration with which we heartily agree, but when he says that "we have ample time to make plans to induce good people to come here" we would

remind his lordship that the efficient C. P. R. system has not been installed in our public departments, and that governments are, in his own words "slow in their movements." In fact they don't move at all until public opinion forces them. Hence we cannot start any propaganda work too early, as they are already doing in the other Dominions. But the summing up of this big Canadian's homily is worth repeating here because it is typically Canadian in its confidence and is a slogan that should be not only in the mind of, but acted upon by every citizen of this Dominion. It reads as follows:

"About the future we have no doubt whatever. If we continue as we are, conserving our resources, avoiding unnecessary expenditure until we can afford it better, if we conclude that our success is going to be dependent entirely on our own efforts and that any assistance we get from other causes must be considered extraneous and not essential, if we make up our minds that we are going to be equal to any country in the world, and that of our ability to do things there is no question, there will be no doubt as to the position of Canada in the future. I have no doubt that there are many young men who will see this country with a population trebled at least, and even larger figures might not be excessive if we perform our duty."