

during the productive period in another way, we find the burden of life, including the support of those dying *before* the productive period, is thereby increased nearly 100 per cent., or nearly doubled.

But this is not nearly all. The loss by, and the expense of, sickness has not been considered. We have no account whatever of the amount of sickness in this country, but we may approximate it through calculations based on the experience of other countries. In Great Britain there have existed for a very long time many Benefit Societies, which include many hundreds of thousands of members of all ages. A chief object of these associations is to support each other when sick and unable to labor. Each member makes certain contributions weekly or monthly, to a common fund, and receives in return a certain amount when disabled from labor. A full record is therefore made of all the sickness of a very large number of men, women and children, in every part, and in all the employments, of the kingdom. The Government has had these records gathered, analyzed, and combined in order to show the proportion or amount of sickness in males and females, in every age and in the various occupations and conditions of the people. The results of these labors have been published in Parliamentary Reports. And the records it must be borne in mind do not include the lesser ailments, as 'colds,' temporary rheumatism, &c. ; and those only requiring medical attendance. It has been estimated from these records that, in Great Britain, for every death there are two constantly sick. In other words, there are 730 days of sickness for every death. It has been found, however, that these calculations do not quite apply to this side the Atlantic. Health Assurance Companies have been started in the United States, and the amounts they should receive in as premiums, and pay out in times of sickness were fixed according to British rates. But it was found that the premiums paid in were insufficient for allowances promised in times of sickness, and the companies were compelled to close their offices. There was more sickness in the United States than the English records showed there was in England. It is probably, then, safe and fair to assume that the proportion of sickness is at least as large in Canada as it is in Great Britain.

A death-rate of 18 per 1000 living per annum in a population of 4,000,000, about that of Canada, would give 72,000 deaths per year. 72,000 multiplied by 730, the number of sick days to each death, gives a total of 52,560,000 days of sickness; and this number represents the probable number of sick days in Canada in one year, while in Ontario alone there would be about 20,000,000 of sick days. Some statisticians have furnished reasonable estimates for calculating the sickness-rate, and have shown that in Europe every individual loses on an average 19 to 20 days annually by sickness. At this rate there would be in Canada from 76,000,000 to 80,000,000 of days of sickness per year. The actual cost of all these days of sickness—medical attendance, nursing, etc.—would amount to a very large sum ; while the loss of time is a very great consideration indeed.