

regularity, registration must be made compulsory. Every birth should be registered within twenty-four hours of the event, under a heavy penalty or imprisonment for failure of compliance with the law. Marriage to require registration, to give it legal status, failing registration the marriage to be illegal and not recognized by law. In the case of Deaths no burial to be permitted without a certificate of registration, to be obtained alone, after due evidence as to cause, either from a medical practitioner or after a coroner's inquiry. We cannot do better than copy the English act, or take it as a base whereon to draw up one of our own. Very much has been written regarding the mortality of our large cities, but unfortunately the source from whence we draw our inspiration is defective and unreliable; nor will we ever arrive at anything like certainty, under the present defective method of enumeration.

Canada has published three or four decennial census, these are public documents and can be consulted by any person interested in the subject of statistics, but we fear the information to be found in them, so far as vital statistics is concerned, is quite unreliable. We have heard that these documents have cost millions of dollars. With a comprehensive system of civil registration, information of this nature would be sure and reliable, and at any time attainable, and in point of cost might be made self-sustaining, or at any rate the outlay would be considerably less than under the present imperfect system. By civil registration we could year by year note the growing strength of our country, the increase of our population other than by immigration, and the mortality from causes preventable, in different localities. These are a few benefits which might follow on the track of a General Registration Act. It is a matter which sooner or later the Government of the country will have forced upon it, and one which we should gladly see introduced into the House of Commons of Canada, not by a private member of that house, but as a Government measure with all the weight and prestige of the Government of the day.