

If the Dominion and Local Governments would adopt regulations for supplementing grants by by-law approved by the qualified ratepayers, similar to what is now done by the Province of Ontario in connection with Houses of Refuge for the poor, and also a per diem allowance for maintenance, I believe there would be a liberal response from the charitably-disposed, and that a by-law would be submitted and carried at the first January elections in the new century in at least one municipality, and by this time next year a rural sanatorium for the consumptive poor would be an accomplished fact.

I submit that from the facts, arguments, and reasons presented, it is clearly the duty of the Dominion Parliament, Provincial Legislatures, municipalities, and philanthropic and charitable organizations and individuals, not only to contribute towards the support of rural sanatoria for the consumptive poor, but also to co-operate in this important work, as by so doing a greater number of needy ones can be reached, a greater check be given to the spread of the disease, and a great number of valuable lives be saved to the home and to the nation.

I shall conclude with a word or two in reference to the last suggestion, namely, that such rural sanatorium should be under the control and management of a large committee of citizens, each of whom should bring the work in touch with some particular interest or phase of modern civilization, working in conjunction with the local Board of Health. At present I shall offer only two reasons in its support.

1. Public opinion is not and will not for some years be ripe for notification and compulsory isolation in tuberculosis as is now enforced by the Boards of Health in cases of small-pox, diphtheria, and scarlet fever. Much will therefore have to be done by means of educating the public, so that the poor who are suffering from this disease will voluntarily take advantage of the rural sanatorium, not only for their own benefit, but also in consideration of the safety from contagion that such a course would afford their family and the public at large, who have provided this free home for their care and treatment. These large committees of citizens would, no doubt, be an important factor in this educating process.

2. There is no philanthropic work, if properly handled, that will bring a more liberal response from the charitably-disposed than a clearly, well-defined, practical, rational, co-operative plan for dealing with the consumptive poor; and there is no more simple and practical way of encouraging this plan than by placing the control and management under a large committee of charitably-disposed people who are willing to contribute of their means and time to this most important and necessary work.

I do not pretend that the plan I have imperfectly outlined is anything like perfect, and my object in presenting it is merely to bring the subject before the Association, and ask that a strong representative committee be appointed to bring in a report on the