

ately after the report of the Committee on Epidemics, and was received and adopted :—

*To the Members of the Provincial Board of Health:*

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to present to you the report of work done in the districts of Parry Sound, Nipissing and Algoma in connection with the outbreak of Diphtheria, beginning at the village of Sundridge, in the organized Township of Strong, on the Grand Trunk Railway, about 45 miles south of North Bay.

Last year there were 12 cases of Diphtheria and 5 deaths in the Township of Strong a little west (5 miles) of Sundridge. With a Board of Health and an active Medical Health Officer, Dr. Toole, it was soon stamped out. This year there have been a number of cases of a very mild type of Diphtheria, with one death.

South of Strong is the township of Armour, organized, including Burk's Falls, and West Chapman, also organized, with the village of Magnetawan at both of which villages there are licensed practitioners. To the north of Strong are the townships of Machar and Laurier, and directly East Joly, all unorganized, and all lying conveniently to be handled by the Medical Health Officer at Sundridge.

In all of these townships there have been a large number of cases of a mild type of Diphtheria, the type becoming more malignant, as we go north towards Lake Nipissing, and west in the townships lying to the south of and bordering on French River. North of Laurier along the line of the G.T.R. is the township of Himsworth, unorganized, including the village of Powassan. West of Himsworth is Gurd, also unorganized, and including the small village of Commanda.

North of Himsworth is the township of North Himsworth, organized and including the village of Callander on Lake Nipissing.

West of the townships of Nipissing and Gurd are Patterson, Hardy, Pringle, Mills, McConkey and Wilson, all unorganized, and containing a considerable population of settlers and lumbermen, having a very large number of cases of Diphtheria, with percentage of deaths very large.

No medical attendance, sanitary condition very bad, both as to dwellings, water supply, garbage and privy regulations.

A Dr. Kidd has lately settled at French River

P.O. near the mouth of French River, and goes as far east as the edge of McConkey, and the doctors at Powassan and Sundridge go as far west as Commanda; but the half dozen townships above named, lying between, are entirely without medical help, and the disease goes on without any attempt to check it. Dr. Porter at Powassan has had under observation in the village and country surrounding 38 cases with 11 deaths.

The water supply of the district, at all times bad, is this year much worse on account of the exceedingly dry summer, followed by very wet fall. The wells are nothing more than holes, a few feet deep, dug in the beaver meadows, which dried up in the summer, and, when the fall rains began, filled up with surface water, poisoned by decaying animal and vegetable matter, the privy and stable being very often in close proximity to the so-called well.

The villages and townships surrounding being unorganized, isolation is impossible, fumigation is carried out in some cases in the villages, but most people in the country are very poor and careless about such matters. In many cases, there is no money to pay for carrying out the regulations, and in none is there law to enforce them.

About 20 miles north of Powassan is North Bay a rapidly growing village, at the junction of the G.T.R., and C.P.R., in the township of Widdifield.

The village is not yet incorporated, but the township is organized and has a very efficient Board of Health with Dr. Carruthers M.H.O., Mr. Ferguson Reeve and Chairman of the Board, and Mr. Cormack, Druggist, Secretary.

It is expected that the village will be incorporated next year, after which the Board of Health will endeavour to get enough assistance from the government and railroad companies, to enable them to build a hospital.

There have been so far this season at North Bay 16 cases of Diphtheria with 4 deaths. The first case occurred in Dr. Carruthers' family. An old privy of construction days, situated on the next lot and very close to the doctor's house was removed a short time before the child took ill. The stirring up of this old privy matter may have had something to do with it. The water supply at present is largely drawn from the lake by teams. There are also some wells, which, generally speaking, are in pretty good condition, but a few of them bad.