

TIMELY PREPARATION OUR BOUNDEN DUTY

"It is obvious that the health authorities are greatly handicapped by the neglect and carelessness of those who try to nurse themselves without the aid of medical advice."

"GAZETTE."

The above comment upon the failure of two unfortunate victims of small-pox to report themselves as stricken with the dread disease serves to emphasize our remarks of last week upon the imperative duty of those entrusted with the care of the public health.

One of the men who died at the Civic Hospital had been "ill all the week," and during that time was visited by friends who did not call a doctor "until the last moment." Yet when we recall Mr. Drury's unpleasant narrative of his experiences at the Civic Hospital when suffering from small-pox, we cannot help thinking that the reluctance of these latest victims of a foul and loathsome disease to call the doctor was based upon their fear and distrust of the treatment they might receive at the temporary home of Mr. Drury. Instead of wondering at the conduct of those who try to nurse themselves, we regard the efforts to conceal their condition as the natural consequence of the recent revelations of the state of the Civic hospital.

Wake up! gentlemen of the Board of Health, and take such steps as will speedily remove the existing impression that removal to the hospital means death. The City of Montreal cannot afford to be placed in quarantine.

In view of the danger of an epidemic, ample and satisfactory hospital accommodation must be prepared, even if, happily, the same be not immediately required. The recollections of previous outbreaks, the many warning voices heard on all sides, preach of precaution and preparation, and to disregard the signs is criminal and culpable negligence. No good citizen of Montreal desires to create unnecessary alarm, but he is fully warranted by recent events in asking that a special meeting of the City Council be appointed to consult with the Board of Health regarding the adoption of measures of defence against any possible outbreak of disease, and to ascertain that the existing hospital arrangements are such as they should be. If it be found necessary, an energetic and capable assistant to Dr. Laberge should be immediately appointed — one having the same qualifications which serve to make Dr. Pelletier so useful to the Provincial Board of Health.

There must be no foolish trifling or irresolution in dealing with this vitally important matter. When sea and sky tell a careful skipper of coming storm, he promptly puts his craft in order and makes everything snug aloft and aloft. We are now menaced with a visitation of a foul and loathsome disease, and it is our bounden duty to prepare for the worst.

THE SIXTEEN TO ONE FALLACY.

Bryan has forced upon the Democratic party once more his sixteen-to-one fad. There are not lacking indications that the party accepted this, on the present occasion, without much enthusiasm, non-imperialism being their true stand-by, coupled with adverse views of trusts. But Bryan was, after all their, only strong candidate, and his great personality forced his party to adopt his views entire, or select another nominee.

Sixteen to one simply means that gold shall be considered only sixteen times more valuable, weight for weight, than silver. At present, the market value is one of gold to thirty-two of silver, or thereabouts. In other words, the United States silver dollar is worth, in the market, as bullion, about fifty cents. The fallacy is exposed when one learns that the Mexican silver dollar, which is in all respects equal, as bullion, to the United States silver dollar, is only worth fifty cents in the United States.

Were the trade of the United States domestic only, it is possible that the Bryan idea of the free coinage of silver at the rate of sixteen to one would become only a matter of academic discussion. But such is not the case. The foreign trade of the United States is stupendous. New York has become the clearing house of the world, excelling the mother clearing house of London, and notwithstanding our monetary systems, we are at present, back to the old system of barter.

The early adventurers in America reaped rich profits from trading glass beads and steel implements with the North and South American Indians. Bryan would reduce his countrymen once more to the level of their predecessors. The whole world is now virtually on a gold basis, even India, and unless it could be induced to look upon the silver bead as twice as valuable as it really is at present, it will take good care to pay its United States Indians for their gold with this currency. In other words, if the United States puts a value on silver twice that at which it is valued by other nations, these nations will gladly acquiesce, pay the United States in silver, and gold will go to a premium in that country.

Those who are following Bryan are chiefly the wage earner or the farmer. To the farmer he has said that the recognition of silver on a sixteen-to one basis will advance prices on his produce.

This is quite true. Prices, in silver coin, will undoubtedly advance if Bryan's theory is put into effect. But the value of an article is not measured by its price. Money is only a mechanism of exchange; values are only relative. Money must be estimated by its purchasing power. In some parts of Scotland, even to this day, so clear is this knowledge in the minds of the people that the stipends of clergymen are