

SUPPLEMENT.

COST OF SICKNESS AND DEATHS IN CANADA.

STARTLING FACTS AND FIGURES.

The strength of a nation cannot be correctly estimated simply by NUMBERING its inhabitants. The health, vigor, and ages at death, of the people must be taken into account.

For example, according to the statistical year-book of Austria, in examining recruits for the army, the proportion of 'fit' to 'unfit,' or accepted to rejected, is as nearly as possible as *three to seven* in that country; while the British army medical report shows the proportion of 'fit' to 'unfit' of recruits examined as *two to one*. As to the causes of primary unfitness, 'muscular tenuity and debility' in the Austro-Hungarian conscripts prevailed to the extent of 281 per 1,000; while of English recruits only 56 per 1,000 were incapacitated thereby, even with the addition of impaired constitutions. In Austria 'disease of joints' (probably of a scrofulous character) incapacitates 106 per 1,000, while less than 10 per 1,000 are refused in England from this cause.

In Norway, a highly favored country in this regard, about 25 per cent. of those who are born die before reaching maturity, or the age of 20 years. In England and the United States about 35 per cent. die before reaching that age. In Ireland 51 per cent. die under 20 years of age. In Ontario, of those who were registered in 1877, only a small fraction less than 50 were under 20 years of age at death; and in 1878 48.5 per cent. were under 20.

Political economists in England, Germany, and United States estimate the value of a mature man, aged 20 years, on an average, at \$1,000; or as costing \$50 per year—for feeding, clothing, educating, &c., for 20 years, before becoming of service to the State. All that die before 20, then, would represent so much clear loss.

If we estimate the death rate in Canada at 20 per 1,000 living per annum—in some of the cities it much exceeds this; in Massachusetts it is 22½, and in England 21 per 1,000—we have in this country, if this estimate be not too high, in a population of 4,000,000, in round numbers, not less than 80,000 deaths per year. Or in Ontario, with say 1,500,000 inhabitants, 30,000 deaths. Over 20,000 were registered in this Province in 1877; and it is thought that not more than 66 per cent. of the totals were recorded.

If 35 per cent. of these, as in England and United States, instead of a proportion of nearly 50 per cent. as the returns in Ontario have shown, die before reaching 20 years of age, there are in Canada 28,000 deaths, and in Ontario 10,500 deaths, every year, of those who have not reached the full working period, but who have been sustained out of the income of the country, each for a certain number of years. A large proportion of these die under one year, many of the remainder under five years, and so on. It was found that in Massachusetts during seven years, 1865 to 1871, inclusive, over 81,000 died at ages under 20 years, and that the average age of each of these was 3.6 years. If the 28,000 who die every year under 20 years of age in Canada, die at