

From war and the fear of war, we in this country are most fortunately and happily free.

As for famine, the genius of man has so wrought upon steam, upon electricity, and other forces of nature, that not only have the products of the earth been vastly increased, but by means of rapid intercommunication all nations have been brought into close relations, one easily supplying what another lacks. Thus national famines have disappeared, or are disappearing from the world, together with the ignorance that tolerated them.

So for pestilence. We claim, too, that disease and pestilence are not the rightful masters of man, and tyrannize over him only by reason of his ignorance or supineness. They are merely the humble subjects of nature, and come and go in obedience to her laws.

Accepting the estimate made by statisticians of the financial value of the life of each able bodied industrious man at sixteen hundred dollars, and the average cash value of each man, woman, and adolescent above twelve years of age, at one thousand dollars, we have then some slight conception of the financial value of the life of each citizen, and the loss to the wealth of the country from sickness and death from preventable diseases which destroy thousands of lives annually, the cash value of which amounts to millions. The eight thousand who die annually in Canada from Tuberculosis alone represent a financial loss of at least eight million dollars. Even from this low monetary point of view, therefore, it needs no laboured argument to prove that it should be the first duty of all governments, national and provincial, to protect the public health by enactments based upon the knowledge that sanitary science has evolved, and to see that all the members of society are benefited by them.

Nations and communities have it in their power to diminish the causes which produce sickness and premature death. From even the partial wise use of this power during the years that are recently past, the average duration of human life is slowly but progressively on the increase. But much, very much, remains to be done. And every measure which relates to the improvement of the sanitary condition of the people generally deserves the earnest support of statesmen, and the favour and hearty support of all.

Provision has been made by the National government to protect this country at large against the exotic diseases—the diseases to be detected by quarantine and by inspection—threatening from abroad.

The country has been and is so fairly protected from their inroads that every one takes their absence as a matter of course without stopping