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A. P. LESPERANCE, Manager

City and District Savings Bank
MONTREAL

The Union of Canadian Municipalities urges
the Municipal Councils to help increase the
consumption of fish in their respective com-
munities.

PUBLIC HEALTH WORK AND ITS BENEFITS.

(Continued.)

it was noticed that every East wind resulted in thousands of cases of diarrhoea in the City of Toronto, which meant a greatly lessened quantity of work done; this no longer occurs. Before our milk supply was all pasteurized there was much more sickness among children; and so on in many other branches of the service. Who can estimate the lives that are being saved, or the improvement in the health of the rising generation over the last generation, due to the constant, unflagging work of our nurses? The death rate is one indication, perhaps the most satisfactory one of all, but even that cannot tell the full tale for many years to come, when the complete results of our work will be registered.

Even from the dollars and cents standpoint the health department is one which can prove that it pays and pays well. One only need be reminded of the fact in the first year of our milk campaign we were able to show that we had eliminated \$400,000 worth of water, which the Toronto public had been purchasing at that time at 9c a quart. This came to a direct tax of 75c a head for each individual in the City of Toronto. At 12c a quart, the present-day price of milk, it would have amounted to nearly half as much again.

Similarly by the reduction of typhoid fever, from forty-two deaths to five per 100,000 inhabitants, at least 185 lives have been saved annually, estimating our population at 500,000. A low value for a human life is \$5,000, which would mean a total saving to the community of \$925,000 per annum. But this is not the whole story, for the amount spent in sickness, loss of earning power through sickness, etc., is something that we have no means of measuring the value of.

People are apt to think that a department of health costs a lot of money to operate, forgetting that they are receiving a return for their money invested many times over. Nothing pays so well or yields such returns as an efficient and fearless health organization. The results may not be spectacular, but they are there, nevertheless, as the few examples quoted will indicate.

At the present time this department is branching out again in taking over the medical inspection of schools. We will have a more or less complete supervision of the child from the time it is born until it dies, in so far as a department of health can have supervision. This, together with the educational work and pre-natal work in regard to mothers, means that the Department of Health of Toronto will probably have more complete control of the health of the community than any other city in America.

Without removal of unwholesome conditions in a city, comparative freedom from flies, removal of garbage, and the solid, scientific work of years which has resulted in obtaining a pure water supply, a safe milk and food supply, etc., it must be remembered that much of the work of our nurses would be futile, for these are the basic causes of much of the sickness in a community. With such scientific control, a sure foundation for future work has been prepared, which would otherwise not be possible. —Toronto Health Bulletin.

SURVEY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

The Survey Department of the Russell Sage Foundation has just published the ninth report of a survey made in the "City and County Administration of Springfield, Illinois."

Throughout the report are given examples of outworn administration methods, multiplication of boards and commissions, and offices that have outlived their usefulness. The result is waste of time and money.

None of the examples of waste, however, mark Springfield as other than typical of American cities. Indeed, in many ways, the capital city of Illinois is far above the average among municipalities. It has a budget system, for example, although certain restrictions imposed by the State reduce its workability. It is one of the growing number of commission-governed cities. It has the short ballot. It furnishes good illustrations of well-managed, municipally-owned water and electric light plants. It has a good accounting system. In fact, there is plenty of evidence of a progressive spirit at work within the city itself, greatly hampered, however, by the arbitrary restrictions imposed by State laws upon its financial and administrative activities.