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THEORETICALLY, we suppose, all intelligent Canadians are now pretty well agreed that it is the right and duty of a free State to insist upon the elementary education within certain limits of all the children born or brought into it. Most of the Provinces of Canada have, we believe, in common with Ontario, compulsory clauses in their Public school statutes. A committee of the Trades and Labour Council of this city at a recent meeting presented a report to the effect that the compulsory provisions of the Ontario School Law are very defective in themselves, and are in practice a dead letter. In this particular the report but confirms a fact which is within the personal knowledge of all who have paid attention to the subject. The Trades and Labour Council have done well to enquire into the matter and press the facts upon public attention. Several defects combine, the report affirms, to make the law inoperative. In the first place the law is not properly compulsory at all, seeing that its enforcement is optional with school boards. These boards may appoint an officer whose duty it shall be to see that all the children of school age in the district are under instruction, but as a matter of fact the appointment of such an officer is apparently the exception instead of the rule. Another point is well taken by the committee, namely, that the period (between the ages of five and twelve) within which attendance is compulsory is too restricted. The committee suggests that the limit be placed at fourteen instead of twelve, a recommen-

dation in which we heartily concur. Again, the present statute makes the attendance obligatory for only 100 days in the year. The committee believes that the law should compel children up to the age of fourteen to attend all the time the schools are in session, and should also forbid the employment of children until they have reached the outer limit of school age. This would, perhaps, be carrying the compulsory principle too far. It cannot be said that moderate employment for a few hours a day is injurious to a healthy child of twelve to fourteen, and many poor parents could ill afford to be deprived of the help of their children during that period. We question whether it would not be better for all concerned that the limit should be still farther extended, say to sixteen or eighteen years, and parents simply required to secure for their children a certain minimum period of attendance at school at some time within that age. The half-time system has not, we believe, been found very satisfactory in England, yet if schools were properly adapted to the system we see no reason why it should not work admirably. Under competent instruction, we believe, a child might make as much genuine progress in his studies in three or four hours per day as he now ordinarily makes in six. All observation shows that the waste of time in most schools under the present system is great. Moreover it is, to say the least, doubtful whether three or four hours per day of real brain work is not quite as much as should ordinarily be required, even of the healthiest youth, during the period of rapid growth. We have little doubt that the day is drawing near when it will be practically admitted that three hours of study alternating with three hours of active physical exertion afford a vastly better training for the healthy development of power of both body and brain than is possible under the present arrangement with a five or six-hour school day.

WORDS of warning are being addressed from many influential quarters to the Executive Councillors of this city, while the fact that symptoms of typhoid are showing themselves here and there is calling upon them more impressively than words to bestir themselves and cleanse the city with all possible speed. Surely they do not propose to wait until they see whether the epidemic is likely to prove serious before moving in the matter. The causes of the trouble are easily discovered. They have again and again been very clearly pointed out. Such letters as that from Dr. Oldright which appeared in the city dailies a few mornings since cannot be disregarded with impunity. Foul pits and cesspools, bad plumbing, especially in old houses, drinking water temporarily impure in consequence of defective pipes, and the unspeakable pollution of the bay which skirts the city front and is constantly traversed by the citizens on their way to their favourite resort—these, all authorities are agreed, are the prime causes of the trouble. Every one of these causes is, it is easily seen, capable of being removed, some of them speedily, others only by means of considerable expenditure of time and money. But all must be removed, if the beautiful city of which we are all so proud is to retain its high reputation for healthfulness and maintain its wonderful rate of progress. To construct a system of drainage adequate for present and future needs, to erect crematories and get them in efficient operation and by these means to purify the waters of the Bay are of course large and expensive undertakings, and cannot be done in a day. But as all citizens must now be pretty well convinced that these are works absolutely necessary to the continued growth and well-being of the city, why should there be longer delay in setting resolutely about them? We assume that every effort is being put forth to discover and remedy the defects in the submerged water pipes. But the other sanitary measure named, the cleansing, and, as far as possible, closing up of the pits and cesspools, is one which might be decided upon and carried into effect within a month. Dr. Oldright puts this first, probably as most imperatively demanding immediate action. The observation and experience of many citizens will, we venture to say, prompt them to corroborate this opinion most heartily. What can be more unfair, not to say criminal, than that the families of those citizens who themselves appreciate cleanliness and observe sanitary laws, should be continually exposed to infection by the culpable ignorance or carelessness of

neighbours? Surely the civic authorities have a duty to do in regard to such matters and should do it promptly and effectively, without fear or favour.

A SWEEPING resolution was passed at the meeting of the Dominion Trades and Labour Congress in Ottawa the other day in regard to immigration. The Congress denounces "the continued systematic and enormously increased expenditure of large sums of public money in aiding and encouraging to this country mechanics, labourers, paupers, indigents, orphans, and children of vicious, tainted and criminal tendencies from abroad, as a gross injustice to the people of Canada, and more especially to the working classes, and calls on the Federal Government to peremptorily abolish the same, and at the same time exercise due care in preventing the introduction into Canada of such paupers, indigents, orphans and children of vicious, tainted or criminal tendencies, whether they be sent under the authority of the Imperial Government or through any other channel." The first clause of the resolution will have pretty general assent, except, it may be, in regard to the question of fact involved in the expression "enormously increased expenditure," the public impression if not the fact being, we think, that the amount of expenditure for immigration purposes has been largely reduced within the last few years, and is now restricted almost exclusively to agricultural labourers. On the main question there is little room for difference of opinion. The injustice of taxing Canadian labourers for the purpose of bringing in competitors from abroad, especially when the labour market is already crowded with men seeking employment, is too obvious to need much argument. Such a course of procedure is especially inconsistent with the principle of protection to native industry, which is now the national policy. If such immigration is really being aided by the Dominion, or any local Government, it is but natural and reasonable that the Labour Congress should enter a strong protest and that labourers of all classes should unite and bring their great influence to bear in order to put a stop to so unjust a use of the public funds. On general principles, too, it is more than doubtful whether any policy of assisted immigration can ever be successful in a country located as Canada is with respect to the rest of the continent. So long as the balance of inducements in the shape of higher wages and a wider field inclines to the side of our neighbours, so long will large numbers of our assisted immigrants, or those displaced by them, go to swell the population of the great Republic. Whenever, on the contrary, the attractions of our own country equal or surpass those of the United States in those important respects, and the tide of population begins to flow in this direction, no assistance will be needed. Especially will this be the case if Canadian institutions, and the customs and social habits of her people, can be kept permanently on a higher plane than those of our neighbours.

THE second clause of the above resolution is, also, on its face, reasonable enough. That it is the duty of the Government to exercise due care to prevent the introduction of immigrants so tainted physically or morally that their presence amongst us would be a source of danger must, of course, be admitted. But taken in connection with the sentiments expressed by its supporters during the debate, it is pretty evident that the resolution is aimed against every form of assisted immigration, whether of children or of adults, and by whomsoever promoted. Here it is necessary to draw a line in the interests of freedom as well as of humanity. It is yet to be proved that the great majority of the children brought into the country by the agency of such institutions as those under the charge of Dr. Barnardo, Miss Rye, Miss McPherson, and others have as yet developed any such taint, either physical or moral, as would justify the Government of any civilized country in shutting the doors against them. The burden of proof rests upon those who assume the contrary. The same thing may be said, in substance, concerning able-bodied adults, not openly vicious or criminal, even though their emigration may have been aided by charitably disposed persons in the Mother Country. It may be the right and duty of the Government to set up a reasonable