

the part of the Government to the vital statistics of the Province, but also the immense assistance which a logical use of them will afford them in estimating rightly the separate or combined influences of avoidable or removable causes of death.

It is impossible to compute the annual loss to Canada through deaths from *preventable* causes, but it may safely be estimated at many millions of dollars. Much money is annually spent in promoting and forwarding immigration to this country, as the Legislature are alive to the necessity of developing the country, which can only be done by increasing the population. Yet, owing to deficient sanitary measures, and want of reliable statistical reports, the advantages gained by immigration are, to a great extent, counterbalanced by our not taking care of the population we already have. Legislation on this subject would be a stimulus to the medical officers of health to show a low death-rate for their district, especially if that death-rate was examined at a Government bureau, and compared with that of other places. If an undue mortality in any place called for an explanation from the medical officer of health as to the cause of the high mortality, and he were required to look into the matter and have the cause remedied, of course the medical officer should have power to summon those who, for their own convenience or gain, are breaking the laws made by the Legislature for the preservation of health.

Had time permitted, your Committee might have extended this Report to any length by citing facts in support of the principles herein laid down. These, however, are unnecessary, and would only have had the effect of exhausting the time and patience of this Honorable House without strengthening the self-evident proposition laid down in a speech delivered at Manchester by the British Premier, Mr. Disraeli, that "*The first consideration of a Ministry should be the health of the people.*"