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SHALL WE HAVE A PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH IN ONTARIO?

Since publishing the first number of the SANITARY JOURNAL over three years ago, (July 1874), we have many times in its pages endeavored to draw attention to, and awaken public interest in, the necessity existing for some sort of Sanitary Legislation in this country; some provision for an organized body to look after the public health. We have received some highly encouraging letters in reference to the matter from gentlemen taking an interest in the public health and the general well-being of the people, and have reason to believe that some good has resulted, and that more will follow from the efforts put forth in this direction.

In the first part of this number we give a lengthy paper showing the value of health as represented by the great loss arising from sickness and early death; showing that the usual sickness-rate and death-rate may be reduced; and the methods which may be adopted, and which have been adopted in other countries, in order to effect a reduction in sickness and death.

Now, in view of all the facts which are set forth in that paper, may not questions like the following be pertinently asked? Why did not our legislators, especially in Ontario, with a large surplus, *years ago* follow the example long set by those of Great Britain in regard to public health matters? Why be so far behind, and not, rather, in advance of those of Massachusetts and the other United States in this important matter? And how much more time must elapse before some attempt is made by them to provide for reducing the sickness and death-rate?

As regards Ontario, the largest and wealthiest Province of the Dominion, the one which it is to be hoped will lead in all matters concerning the public health, few probably will be disposed to doubt that her legislators would delay in taking some action and providing some measure by means of which the general sanitary condition of the