

'In the ideal state, every twenty years expended in the development of manhood and womanhood, results in the completion of a matured laborer. But in the actual experience of the world, a varied portion of this expenditure is lost by death in this period.

'In the production of dead machinery, the cost of all that are broken in the making is charged to the cost of those which are completed, and the prudent manufacturer charges all that he expends on the failures to those that succeed, as a proper part of the cost. Thus, if two fail, when half finished for every one that is completed, the cost of the finished one is doubled; and this increase of cost is in proportion to the expenditure which has been made or lost on those that broke down in the process.

'So in estimating the cost of raising children to manhood, it is necessary to include the number of years that have been lived by those that fell by the way, with the years of those that pass successfully through the period of development.'

In this view then, as a productive machine, a child at any age is worth the amount that has been expended for its support, training, &c., to that age. The cost of supporting children varies greatly in different countries and in different classes. Political economists in England, Germany and the United States estimate the value of a mature man, at twenty, at \$1,000, or at an average cost of \$50 a year, for the 20 years. This seems to be a low enough estimate, even for Canada.

We have not yet in Canada sufficiently reliable statistics upon which we can estimate the number which die in the country each year under twenty, or at any particular age. I may observe here, however, that the prospects are that it will not be very long ere we shall have such statistics in Ontario at least. Last year, under the new act—that of the Hon. S. C. Wood—which came into force 1st January, 1876, according to the report of that year, which will soon be given to the public, there was an increase in the returns of deaths of over 100 per cent.; probably 60 per cent., or perhaps as is estimated, two-thirds of the whole number.

In an interim report of the first half of last year, the Registrar General of Ontario, after referring to the death-rate of other countries, says, it is only fair to assume that a death-rate of about 18 per 1,000 would be the correct standard for the death-rate of Ontario. In view of the death-rate in Toronto, at least 26 per 1,000, this seems a sufficiently low estimate. In Massachusetts it is about 22½ per 1,000, according to latest returns; in England, 21. However, let us base calculations on a death-rate for the whole of Canada of 18 per 1,000 living, per annum. This, in a population of 4,000,000, would give an annual total of 72,000 deaths; or for Ontario, with 1,500,000 inhabitants, a total of 27,000 deaths per year. If 35 per cent. of these die before reaching the mature age of twenty, which is about the proportion that die before that age in the United States and in England, there would be 25,200 deaths in the Dominion annually, 9,450 in Ontario alone, of those who had never reached the produc-