

ditions, they should be obliged to comply with the most strict measures of isolation and segregation.

We know of families in this city, and during this present epidemic of small-pox, who systematically sent their children to public schools, even while the disease small-pox was in their houses. And we could trace if necessary the propagation of measles and scarlet fever from the same want of forethought and common sense. Such is the experience we doubt not of every medical man.

It would appear that these measures cannot be forced on the people except by Act of Parliament. Man is so stupidly doltish, that recommendations for the preservation of his health, comfort, or his very life will be by him neglected, or altogether ignored, unless they come with the authority of law, with certain pains and penalties attached for their neglect.

Sanitary laws are based on actual observation and experience. It is well for any people if they profit by the experience of others. But the enforcing of sanitary regulations on the ignorant, becomes the duty of the Government of a country. In the case of Canada, the Government being without advice on this all important subject, cannot be expected to follow the suggestions of Local Boards of Health, or of every writer (however earnest), who takes up this subject in the interest of the whole community.

What we would again urge, is the calling together of a General Board of Health for the Dominion, not alone to counsel the Government, but to prepare an efficient and comprehensive bill to be submitted to the Commons of Canada during the coming Session. If this is not done, or if measures are not entered into with a view of arousing the people from the state of lethargy which exists, we cannot tell what amount of sickness and death are before us, and it will then be too late to set to work to remedy the evil while a state of panic exists. We observe that other countries are, as it were, setting their house in order, with a view of averting the threatened approach of pestilence, or at least of being fully prepared for its invasion. But in Canada we have not taken the first step. We are crying out "Peace, peace, where there is no peace." It is a subject unpalatable, and therefore ignored or wholly neglected—but it is not the wisest course to pursue, and we earnestly pray that our fears may prove without foundation.

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