

PAPER VIII.—METHOD OF APPOINTMENT, DUTIES AND
COMPENSATION OF HEALTH OFFICERS.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen :

It gives me great pleasure to be present at this, the first annual meeting of the Association of Executive Health Officers of Ontario, and the second sanitary convention held in the Town of Woodstock. My feelings are largely in favor of such gatherings and, although but a humble member, unable to add much to the general fund of information, still, I hope to carry away thoughts and ideas useful to the town in which I reside. I shall certainly return with feelings of sincere respect for the good people of Woodstock, and a full appreciation of the kindness experienced during my brief visit.

The subject which I am requested to present this forenoon, "The Method of Appointment, Duties and Compensation of Health Officers," will not try your patience to any severe degree, as I intend that my remarks shall be brief, although the question is of great interest and should secure a fair share of consideration and provoke discussion.

To my mind no duty entirely in the hands of municipal councils is more important than the selection of competent Health Officers and the formation of efficient Local Boards. It is but fair to add that, taken as a whole, the trust has not been misplaced; especially is this true with regard to Medical Health Officers, the chief advisory officials. I am sure you will quite agree with me that those in your immediate neighborhood with whom you are acquainted, as well as those present from a distance whom you have had occasion to hear and see, reflect every credit on their official positions. I am pleased, indeed, to pay this deserved compliment to our municipal corporations and their appointees, the Medical Health Officers; still I am not prepared to recede from my personal conviction, that to fully serve the wise purposes intended by the Public Health Act, Health Officers should be elected by the popular vote, and directly and only responsible to the people. They should have control of municipal funds for such sanitary work as in their judgement is wise and proper, and in as