

has been lavish in providing great bodies of pure, fresh water in Canada, but we have neglected to protect these great bodies of water. Our great inland lakes and our great rivers have been polluted to such an extent that, instead of being the blessing that the Creator intended they should be, these great bodies of water have proved to be a menace to the lives of the people in the districts adjacent to them or that use the water.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago, the great river which flows at the base of this building, the Ottawa river, was a pure body of water. In my boyhood days I remember we used to boast of the beautiful soft fresh water that we had in the city of Ottawa, but to-day one glass of that water contains misery and death to those who have the temerity to drink it, all because we have not taken proper precautions to protect our rivers. Right here in the city of Ottawa we have had an awful example of what this means. During the two epidemics of 1911 and 1912 we had no less than 2,500 cases of typhoid fever in this city and 170 deaths. That is an awful record for a great city like Ottawa; it is certainly deserving of serious thought and calls for the censure of those who are responsible for the care of the city. This is the terrible price that Ottawa has paid for the criminal neglect of those who are in charge of this city to provide pure water. But if the condition of the city of Ottawa is bad, and every man who realizes what has taken place within the last few years knows that it is, what are we to say about the rest of this great country of ours? Statistics show that in the province of Ontario we have had something like 700 deaths a year from typhoid fever. The great lakes and rivers of Ontario are polluted to such an extent that the water is utterly unsafe for human consumption. If the authorities of Ottawa have neglected their manifest duty and if they are responsible for the awful conditions that prevail here regarding the water supply, how much more is this House responsible not only for the conditions here, but for the terrible conditions that prevail throughout our great Dominion. The pollution of our lakes and rivers has caused and is causing the death of thousands of our citizens, and misery and suffering to thousands more. I would like to place on record a few facts compiled by men who are perhaps better qualified to speak on these matters than I am. I hold in my hand a report by Dr. Charles Hodgetts, medical adviser to the Conservation Commission of

Canada. I wish to read a few paragraphs and to place a few of the statistics which he has given on record in order to make a comparison between the conditions in Canada and in other countries. Dr. Hodgetts, in his report to the Conservation Commission, makes this statement:

It is quite apparent, even to a most casual student of the question, that while the great tide of industrial development has brought to us wealth, both national and personal, yet that same tide has brought with it sickness, suffering and death, which count for national loss and personal suffering. Man, the manufacturer, in his haste to get rich quick, has transgressed the laws of health; it is safe to say that there is not a river on the continent of North America which is not an open sewer; and our fair lakes are defiled by the overt acts of men and women everywhere.

The stigma which rests upon our so-called western civilization, is the utter indifference to the value of human life which we find in evidence everywhere. We are now in the thralldom of a white slavery, one manifestation of which is the utter disregard we have shown for the health of our people by the indiscriminate pollution of our lakes, rivers and streams. We wantonly defile one of the greatest blessings with which a great Creator has blessed us—for travel anywhere throughout the world and you will not find anything to compare with our great natural reservoirs of once pure and limpid waters, which now are the fountains from which flow disease and death. It is a fact that typhoid fever, which is a water-borne disease, as well as many intestinal ailments, of which the sanitarian has no definite statistical data, are widespread. Certainly typhoid is much more common in America than in the crowded countries of Europe.

Then he goes on to say:

It is generally conceded that a large percentage of all sickness happening in cities and towns is due to impurity of the water supply, sewage contaminated water being an important cause of diarrhea of which at present we cannot speak with certainty.

It has been so far accepted, and is now almost the general rule, to consider that a continued typhoid death rate of over 20 per 100,000 of population is an indication that the public water supply is greatly at fault. With the object of ascertaining how this rule would work out for Canadian cities, information has been obtained as to the deaths from typhoid fever reported in cities of Canada during the decade 1900-1909, and this has been set forth in table 'A'.

I do not intend to trouble the House with the whole of this statement, but I wish to make a few quotations for the purpose of comparison: The number of deaths per 100,000 of population from typhoid fever in the cities named from 1900 to 1909 inclusive, was as follows: