

The average death rate for the past six years was 28·5 and for the past seven years 33·7 per 1,000, 12·2 per 1,000 more than Toronto, 15·2 more than old London. I repeat that it is the most unhealthy city in the Dominion, excepting Hull, which has an average death rate for the past three years of 37·7, Hull being not only one of the most unhealthy cities in Canada, but one of the most unhealthy cities in the world. The reason I take the records for the past three years is that the health statistics do not go further back. I may say that, three years ago, the death rate was 41 per 1,000. So from the cities of Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton we have in this Parliament a large number of representatives, including men of mark and ability, and I hope I have aroused the feeling in their breasts in favor of sanitary legislation. I have now drawn attention to this important subject, from comparisons made between Canada and our mother land, as to what may be done by proper legislation. I have no doubt there will be exceptions taken, perhaps not with the statements and comparisons I have made, but with the propositions I am about to make to carry out such legislation towards educating people on health matters. The first objection taken, no doubt, will be the great expense necessarily incurred in putting sanitary legislation into force, and this will be the more apparent at the present time when we are all talking economy, although we are not on all occasions practising it. But, if I can show that the money spent will be returned to the people tenfold, the objection will be waived. I now draw attention to the financial aspect of the case. I have shown pretty clearly that there were 20,000 deaths in Canada which could have been prevented; take three-fourths of this number, and say 15,000 deaths recorded, and let us consider what financial loss to the country these deaths represent. First, let us consider the expense on the people from attendance, doctor's bills, &c. It has been estimated by our best aid and relief societies that there are twenty cases of severe sickness for every case of death. That means 15,000 deaths, 300,000 cases of sickness. What must have been the suffering endured during those 300,000 cases of sickness, to say nothing of the poverty and crime which must necessarily have followed. It has been estimated by the best statisticians that every case of sickness costs \$10. Accordingly, 300,000 cases of sickness, costing \$40 each, would represent \$12,000,000. Let us go a little further, taking our information from our aid and relief societies. It is computed that each sickness lasts twenty days; the total sickness would,

therefore, represent 6,000,000 days. Taking the time lost by the sick, and those waiting on them, at \$2 per day, there is a loss of \$12,000,000 more, or a total loss of \$24,000,000 to the people of Canada. There is not only this direct loss, but an indirect loss also, for during the time of sickness, nothing is added to the wealth of our country. There is also to be added another indirect loss from those who have died. It is estimated that 60 per cent. die between birth and the age 15 and over 50, leaving 40 per cent. to die between the ages of 15 and 50. 15,000 deaths implies that 6,000 die between the age of 15 and 50. It is always considered by all countries that an adult person is worth \$1,000, showing an indirect loss to the country of \$6,000,000 more, making a total on the people of Canada direct or indirect to \$30,000,000 a year, or \$150,000,000 for the past five years. Some may say that \$1,000 is too much to place on a man's life but the bible says would not a man give all he hath got for his life. A second objection, perhaps, which will be raised, is that all health teaching should be left in the hands of physicians. I will admit that it is partly the duty of the physician to assist in carrying out wise legislation on health matters, but his chief duty is to stand between his patient and the grave; and I am proud to say that there is no class of men more willing and ready to take their lives in their hands in going to the bedsides of their patients, and facing the most malignant and fatal diseases, than gentlemen of the medical profession. But, Sir, they are also ready and willing to assist in any efforts that may be made for the prevention, as well as for the cure of disease. There are some who believe that death and sickness will come, it matters not what we do, but that is a mistaken idea. This world is run by fixed laws, and when we violate these laws, we suffer the consequences. The object of the legislation such as I now suggest, is to educate our people how to observe these laws, and so to escape the consequences of their non-observance. A third objection which doubtless, will be raised, and which will admit of a good deal of discussion, is "That all health matters and sanitary regulations should be left in the hands of the Provincial or Local Governments." I do not wish it to be understood that I am opposed to each province having a board of health or some forms of health legislation; far from it. I would be pleased to know that each had such a board and that their laws were strictly enforced. I am satisfied that the board of health in the Province of Ontario is doing a great deal of good, and would do very much more if the people