

station alone, in 1903. In 1906, 5,000,000 rats were destroyed in Tokio, without, however, appreciably decreasing their number, as destruction, by lessening the struggle for existence, seemingly increases the rate of multiplication of this rodent.

The fight against this disease is, therefore, a particularly difficult one, yet marvels have been accomplished, even in places where conditions are most unfavourable. Where anything like a fair chance is given, efficient organization wins in every instance. Numerous cases are on record of prompt curtailment of the disease in large shipping centres to which the infection has been carried by commerce. The recent experience at San Francisco is illustrative.

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Now while the diseases of which I have spoken have but little direct interest to us, I have brought them before you because they demonstrate the value of properly organized study. They comprise only a part of a long list of diseases of tropical or subtropical countries which have been investigated by medical men who have been especially sent by the British or continental governments for that purpose. These governments have followed this course because of the demands made upon them in the interests of trade, and thus diseases in foreign lands have been studied more thoroughly and dealt with more effectively than many of the diseases which menace the home countries. It is curious that people will habitually and unhesitatingly expose themselves to diseases which are familiar to them at home, but shrink from submitting to any risk of infection by the diseases peculiar to foreign shores. And so governments which have done little, or perhaps nothing, towards the control of diseases at home have voted large sums of money for the investigation of diseases in colonies or even in countries where their sole interest is the commercial one. While this may excite our curiosity here in Canada, it does not concern us in any other way, but we may very well ask ourselves if large expenditures abroad, on the part of other governments, is economically justifiable, should not