

taken in connection with the evil results which may follow, causing endless litigation and misery to individuals. In proof of the above allegation we can give a case in point. A personal friend succeeded to property,—he was obliged to prove that he was the grandson of the testator. No evidence of his baptism or registration existed, so that he had to fall back upon the testimony of persons who had been present at the ceremony in one of the churches in this city. The parties who had actually signed the church register were forthcoming, but the register itself was wanting. We presume that by some unlucky circumstance the clerk had omitted to place his name in the copy which is of record in the office of the prothonotary; the church register had been destroyed by fire. The system, as at present administered, is cumbrous and imperfect, and will so remain until a general law for the whole Province is enacted, taking as a model the registration law of Great Britain, which is found to be efficient, and has done more than any other enactment to develop the present system of sanitary improvement.

On the results arising out of the returns of the registrar general for England, are based scales or tables which guide life assurance companies in the acceptance of risks at certain rates of premium. In fact the sanitary improvements of the old world take the form of a science, which is well worthy of careful study, and deserving of adoption in a country like Canada. We do not see that an alteration in our registration law should be attended with expense to the country, nor need it be oppressive on the people. It is customary, we believe, at all baptisms, to pay a registration fee of half a dollar. This fee goes to the clerk for his trouble of recording half a dozen words. The clergy of those churches where baptism is recognised as a sacrament, refuse all remuneration.

Between five and six thousand children are baptised in our city every year, and yet this does not give a correct estimate of the number born; but still, for the sake of argument, this would yield a large sum, which, if properly managed, would, with other registration fees, yield a revenue; and at the same time pay all the expense of an efficient and well-worked system.

These suggestions we offer with all due respect to our legislators, and trust that something may yet be done to remove the stigma of "the black north," so freely applied to us, and we fear most justly. There are many reforms needed, not alone in our registration system; but as this appears to be a matter which is the first step to a correct knowledge of the value of human life in our country, we are in a measure forced to bring it before the public with a hope that some good may result. It is