

no report from the rural sections and small towns, we will have to estimate the death rate of the whole Dominion at, say, 20·5 per 1,000 and we will estimate the population of the Dominion at the present time at 5,500,000. In England, the difference between the rural sections and cities, is 1·7, and for Canada I am giving the whole difference as 2 per 1,000 although I believe medical men will agree with me, that in our small towns and villages zymotic diseases are more fatal than in cities, such as small-pox diphtheria, scarlet, and typhoid fever, so that in all probability the death rate is as great, if not greater; but I am going to give the difference as 2 per 1,000. So that, if we estimate the population of the Dominion at 5,500,000, it implies that during last year, if death rate had been reduced as low as it was in England and Wales, namely 17·2, there were about 15,000 or 20,000 deaths recorded in Canada which might have been saved. If we could legislate to save 15,000 lives a year what a great boon it would be to our country. Let us imagine we heard of 15,000 emigrants coming to our shores at one time, we would think that our country was becoming rapidly populated; or if we heard of 15,000 of our people migrating to the neighbouring Republic, what a cry would go up from the floor of this house as to the great exodus. It would be pointed out to us in glowing terms that our country was going rapidly to ruin; committee would be asked for to investigate the cause, and many would be the panaceas offered to allay it but when 15,000 are carried silently to the grave not a word is spoken, or a voice raised by any member of this house as to how to prevent it. It is allowed to go on from year to year. Perhaps, some may think that I have not made a just comparison, by taking the twenty-eight cities in Canada and calculating the death rate for the whole Dominion by that. Now, if there should be objection to the mode by which I have made my calculation, I will take the twenty-eight cities in Canada and compare them with twenty-eight of the largest cities in England. The population of twenty-eight cities in England was 9,400,000. There were 179,865 deaths recorded last year, or an average death rate of 19·2 per 1,000. The death rate in the same cities from 1871 to 1881, previous to the legislation of the Health Act, was 24 per 1,000. In those twenty-eight cities during the last nine years the average death rate has been 21 per 1,000.

This implies that at the end of last year 200,000 more people were living than would have been in existence if the death rate had continued for the past 9 years as

it was in the 10 years previous, from 1871 to 1881. In twenty-eight cities in Canada with a population of 840,000 the death rate was 22·2 per 1,000. If the death rate had been reduced to that of the twenty-eight English cities, 19·2, no less than 2,520 lives would have been saved, or for the ten years, 25,200, which might have been saved by proper legislation. Perhaps I might make a still stronger comparison as to what might be done by health teaching and sanitary legislation, by comparing old London and Montreal. Old London, with a population of 4½ millions, had a death rate of 18·5 per 1,000 for the past nine years. I desire to say here, that there is no reason why our cities in Canada should not be as healthy as old London is to-day. Montreal has a beautiful situation, with its front washed by a magnificent river and with high lands in the rear; in fact with all natural advantages for a metropolitan city; yet Montreal, with a population of 200,000, had a death rate for the past five years of 34·8 per 1,000, or nearly two to one as compared with overcrowded London. There is no reason why the death rate should not be reduced as low, if not lower than London by proper sanitary legislation. The difference 16·3 per 1,000 means that there would have been living in Montreal 3,600 persons at the end of last year, whose deaths would have been recorded, or 21,000 during the past six years; if continued for the next ten years, the number would have increased to 40,000, who might have been saved and continue their lives as respectable citizens. Toronto, with her beautiful structures of fine architectural design, broad streets and a frontage on Lake Ontario, is the pride of the people of Ontario. The average death rate of that city for the last six years was 21·5 per 1,000, or three per 1,000 more than London. There is no reason to doubt that by proper legislation the death rate could be reduced three or four per 1,000; but if the death rate had been as low as that of London no less than 510 deaths might have been prevented, or in ten years more than 5,100. In Quebec the death rate for the past six years averaged 30·7 per 1,000. I will make one more comparison then I will close, and that is a comparison of the death rate of the city chosen for the capital of the Dominion; chosen, no doubt, for high elevation and picturesque surroundings. The different Governments have spent money lavishly in erecting buildings here, becoming to a great nation, but the people of the city have been direlict of their duty in putting in force sanitary arrangements; so that, instead of this being one of the most healthy, it is the most unhealthy city in Ontario, and one of the most unhealthy cities in Canada.