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PUBLIC HEALTH IN ST. JEAN BAPTISTE TOWN.

Sometime ago, the Cure of St. Jean Baptiste Town applied to the Board of Health, in this city, for permission to send five patients from the municipality to the Civic hospital. This involved the question of expense, which was promptly met by the kind-hearted priest, who believed the municipality would be only too happy to pay the small sum of half a dollar for each patient; and added, "if they refused, rather than see these poor parishioners of mine suffer, I will pay it myself." Mr. Radford promised to see the Mayor, and upon this understanding the patients were admitted. On Wednesday last, Mr. Radford reported to the Board of Health "that he had, along with Dr. LaRocque, seen his Worship, of St. Jean Baptiste, who informed him that the Corporation had declined paying for such cases, the reason given being that they were too poor. On examining the mortuary returns for the last eight weeks, it was found that sixteen deaths had taken place from *small-pox*. Now, assuming that St. Jean Baptiste had a population of 7,000, and Montreal 125,000, and that in the latter the death-rate from this disease was equal to that in the former, we should have 194 deaths per month, or 54 in excess of what it really is.

"During the same period, three deaths had occurred in the town from Typhoid; if the same ratio existed within the city limits, we should have 348 per annum from this disease, whereas 122 deaths from this cause occurred. It will therefore be seen at a glance that the outlying municipalities cannot be allowed to remain as they are, if St. Jean Baptiste is a true specimen of the rest."

Instead of being a healthy retreat for our citizens, it is clear that this suburb is in a most unsatisfactory condition, and that with all the energy and effort that is being used in Montreal, we can never hope to be in a good hygienic condition, so long as no means exist compelling the authorities to exert themselves in putting down the wide-spread disease which flourishes under their present rule.