

# Unsanitary Housing

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THE housing question has been more particularly and prominently brought to the attention of Canadians by Mr. Henry Vivian, M.P., through the kindly auspices of His Excellency Earl Grey, to whom Canadians must feel deeply grateful for this practical expression of his personal interest in all things that appertain to the social and national welfare of our country.

The evils of improper housing and the deleterious effect of their continuance upon the individual, both as affecting his health and his morals, are now generally acknowledged; but that we should be able to say that considerable of what has been written and much that has been said in respect to unsanitary housing conditions in Europe can be applied to Canada, comes perhaps as a surprise to many who have considered that in this fair land of ours, it was impossible for such evils to grow up. It is quite true the evil does exist, and perhaps to a greater extent than we are free to admit; not to such an alarming extent, perhaps, as elsewhere, but none the less it is an evil which, if we but look for, we may find, even beyond the boundaries of our larger centres of population—for the nucleus of many a slum has been planted even in the outskirts of civilization and it will be found that, even there, some of the more serious effects upon the health and morals of the dwellers are already apparent.

Existing  
Conditions in  
Canada

The following brief extracts from the writings of three well known public officials indicate the conditions existing in at least three sections of the Dominion.

Regarding the province of Quebec, Dr. Elzear Pelletier, Secretary of the Quebec Board of Health, in an excellent article on "Our Unhealthy Dwellings," says:

"As the populations of our cities increase, the dwellings are huddled together, without any care being given to their orientation in order to secure sunshine and light for the apartments, and without reserving enough free space to allow the air to circulate around the dwellings. The height of the buildings constructed is out of proportion to the width of the