

# Canada's Greatest Asset

ARE WE SAFEGUARDING IT ?

A Vital Question for all Canadians!



What are YOU going to do about it ?

## Preface.

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*HAVE* been enabled to publish this little pamphlet (in the interests of the proposed Dominion Child Welfare Bureau,) through the kindness of Mrs. Colin H. Campbell, whose husband, the late Hon. Colin H. Campbell, was such a believer in, and good friend of, our Winnipeg Juvenile Court, and who was mainly responsible for its inauguration in this City.

*F. J. Billiarde.*

*Winnipeg,  
February, 1917.*

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## Canada's Greatest Asset.

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Do you believe that Canada's greatest asset is her children?

Do you believe that the better the conditions are made for all children in the Dominion, the better it will be for your child and my child?

Do you know that at the present time we are losing more children per annum in Canada by death from ENTIRELY PREVENTABLE CAUSES than we are losing men killed by shot and shell among our Overseas Forces on the battlefields of Europe?



### A MADONNA OF THE TENEMENTS.

Keep the mother and the children together! No worthy widow should be compelled to break up her family and place her children in an institution. She should be pensioned by the state and enabled to support her family till they become wage earners.

We should not penalize the mother because she is poor.

The conservation of our physical resources is a national issue with a practical unanimity of opinion on the affirmative side of the question. Of what use is it to conserve the physical resources of the country if we allow the man and woman power of our country to be wasted?

The proper way to conserve our Manhood and Womanhood is by conserving and safeguarding our children. Are we conserving the Manhood and the Womanhood of Canada as we should?



**THIS BOY HAS A MESSAGE FOR YOU.**

I was not born a criminal, but through neglect I may become one, or I may become the strongest bulwark of the state. I may become the glory or the shame of the state, I may bring great wealth and honour to the country or I may incur for it great shame and degradation. My name is legion—I am as clay in your hands. What will YOU do for me?

**READ AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELF.**

**INFANTILE DEATH RATE AND WHAT IT IMPLIES.**

Infant mortality is the most sensitive index we possess of social welfare conditions. The infant death rate indicates in the most graphic manner the intelligence, health and right living of parents, the standards of morals and the sanitation of communities, the efficiency of nurses, health officers and educationalists. Bearing this in mind, kindly read the following statistics regarding the infantile death rate in the Dominion. It is difficult to

procure reliable statistics concerning this matter, but such as I have been able to procure follow, with the source from which they have been obtained:—

TABLE I.

Cities	Deaths per 1000 Births
Montreal . . . . .	290
Brandon . . . . .	269
Ottawa . . . . .	256
Port Arthur . . . . .	248
Chatham . . . . .	229
Port William . . . . .	227
Halifax . . . . .	204
St. Catherines . . . . .	194
Kingston . . . . .	186
Hamilton . . . . .	173
Brantford . . . . .	173
Edmonton . . . . .	171
Winnipeg . . . . .	169
London . . . . .	164
Niagara Falls . . . . .	151
Toronto . . . . .	144
Guelph . . . . .	142
Calgary . . . . .	130
Peterboro . . . . .	122
Portage la Prairie . . . . .	114
New York City . . . . .	102
London, England . . . . .	113
New Zealand . . . . .	89
Norway . . . . .	81
Sweden . . . . .	91



TO-MORROW'S MEN.

Are they to start life's race un-handicapped and with a fair chance, or are they to be handicapped out of existence, they constitute *Canada's Greatest Assets*. Surely we ought to spend as much money conserving this asset as we spend to conserve our wild game, or as we spend to improve the breed of our hogs.

From the same sources we obtained the Infant Mortality in the following provinces, no figures being available from the other provinces:—

TABLE II.

Province	Deaths per 1000 Births
Manitoba . . . . .	149
Ontario . . . . .	131
Saskatchewan . . . . .	130
Nova Scotia . . . . .	111
Prince Edward Island . . . . .	104

From a mere glance at Table 1 it is seen that eight of the twenty Canadian cities have an Infant Mortality TWICE that of New York City, while Montreal has THREE times the mortality.

A new-born child has less chance of living a week than a man of 90 years, and less chance of living a year than a man of 80 years of age.—(The above facts and tables are taken from the CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, 1914.)

561 BABIES DIED (5 years and under) in the City of Montreal during the MONTH OF JULY, 1916, averaging about 19 daily.—(Taken from the Annual Report of the University Settlement, Montreal, 1916.)

In one Canadian province alone we are assured by a noted medical authority on the subject, that "10,000 CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE DIE ANNUALLY OF ENTIRELY PREVENTABLE CAUSES."

Speaking of WARD 5 IN THE CITY OF WINNIPEG a few years ago before the Ministerial Association, one speaker stated that it had the highest infantile death rate in the world, second only to that of Chili in Peru.

I believe that since then the situation has been improved, but no doubt it can still bear improvement. Personally, I can bear witness to the magnificent work executed by our Civic Health authorities in the face of many great difficulties. Dr. Douglas and his assistants have done a noble work.

The other day Dr. Stewart Fraser, Secretary of the Manitoba Provincial Health Board, speaking at the annual meeting of the Children's Hospital, stated:—

"Disease is making terrible inroads on the infant population of Manitoba, and we should organize to fight it with the same intensity that we have organized for war."

It may be noted here that Dr. Fraser and the Manitoba Provincial Board of Health are doing a very fine work throughout the province by the newly organized system of visiting nurses in country districts.

The Federal Child Welfare Bureau of the United States has reported that, as a result of the Bureau's first year's work, it was discovered that 300,000 INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE HAD DIED IN THE UNITED STATES; and the report goes on to say that it is believed that 50%, or one-half of this number, could have been saved by ordinary measures of hygiene and sanitation.

So far for Infant Mortality which the reader must bear in mind constitutes but one phase touched on in this many-sided subject, Child Welfare.



A YOUNG ORATOR WITH A MESSAGE FOR ALL.

"Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears." (Tell your Civic fathers to provide me with proper playing space, sunshine, fresh air, pure water and adequate housing.)

#### MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

It is estimated that in the Province of Manitoba there are approximately 700 Mental Defectives, and in the Province of Ontario there are approximately 1,000. Owing to insufficient data I have been unable to obtain the figures for the other Provinces.

Concerning this class of child, I need only say that allowed to grow up without proper medical care and supervision they constitute a menace to society equal only to some most deadly and virulent disease.

#### HABITUAL CRIMINALS.

According to the latest Dominion Government report, there are 2,086 habitual criminals in the country, i.e., persons who spend most of their lives in jail.

A proper system of well-equipped Juvenile Courts all over the Dominion would reduce the number of Penitentiary inmates by at least 50% in the very near future. It is less costly and a dozen times more humane and wise to provide for Child Welfare than to provide for criminals!

### CHILD LABOR.

Here again is another phase of this subject.

The latest Dominion Government report under date 1915 states that 25,153 boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 14 years are working, the majority in factories.



### THE HOPE OF DEMOCRACY.

To-morrow's man, is he to become a criminal, a social outcast, an expensive burden to the country, or an honest, efficient citizen. What about my boy, your boy, are YOU thinking about these things?

Concerning this phase of the matter, the public should know what class of children should be entirely eliminated as a factor in the industrial problem. From what industries should children be eliminated? What regulations should govern the conditions of the children who may be wisely employed? What should be done with those excluded from industrial employment?



## HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN RURAL DISTRICTS.

It is noticeable to observe that the Child Welfare Bureau of the United States has discovered regarding Rural Schools as contrasted with City Schools, that the number of children having defective sight in the former is three times greater than those in City Schools. The number of children having defective hearing in Rural Schools is twice as great as those in City Schools. The number of children having defective tonsils in Rural Schools is ten times greater than those in City Schools, that is, of course, proportionately.

## NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM CHILD BIRTH.

This again is another phase of the question that we should know a good deal more about than we do.

Quite recently Sir Arthur Newsholme, of England, stated that there has been much unnecessary mortality from this cause in England and the Child Welfare Bureau of the United States in one of its recent reports stated that at least 15,000 women die in the United States of sicknesses developing from the above, of whom 7,000 die from diseases almost entirely preventable and 8,000 die from diseases known to be curable.

The consensus of opinion of the medical fraternity is that these figures are too low.

Commenting on the number of deaths resulting from the neglect to provide proper medical care for the mother, a local paper has this to say:—

"The case of ————— dealt with under the Children's Act, from the Ruthenian settlement on the east side of Lake Dauphin lately, regarding the death of two women from neglect after child-birth, calls for more than passing notice. The worst feature of this criminal neglect is that THESE ARE NOT ISOLATED CASES by any means. Reports are circulated from time to time of the death of many other women among the foreigners under similar circumstances. The reasons frequently given why the services of a physician have not been called in is the distance these people live from the centres and the cost attending the trip."

The space at my disposal in this pamphlet forbids any extended treatment of the many phases and subjects comprised under the caption of Child Welfare, but it is hoped that enough has been stated to cause the urgency of this matter to be recognized and the dire necessity which exists for Dominion legislation to provide for the conservation of our greatest asset of all. It

is high time that, as a people, we spent at least half as much money concerning the conservation of child life as we do in the scientific breeding of stock. I venture to say that more money has been spent by the Dominion Government regarding the most desirable strain of Hogs to be bred, or the most effective methods of fighting Rust—far more money has been spent in this way by the Dominion Government—than has been expended in dealing with the safeguarding of our greatest asset of all—the child.

WHAT ARE YOU, AS A CITIZEN OF THE DOMINION,  
GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

You can, if really interested, urge upon the Dominion Government the great and vital need which exists for the establishment of a Dominion Child Welfare Bureau, along lines similar to the Federal Child Welfare Bureau of the United States.

Yours in the interests of our greatest asset—the Child.

F. J. BILLIARDE.

Winnipeg, Man.  
February, 1917.



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