

REPORT OF HEALTH OFFICER

H. O. Simpson M. D.,

Mayor, Town of Dartmouth.

Dear Sir:—

Health conditions in the town during the past year have shown an increase in infectious diseases due to the abnormal conditions under which we have been living.

The explosion and the consequent lack of house accomodation resulted in overcrowding. The opening of a relief hospital for infectious diseases helped to keep down what might have been a serious epidemic of diphtheria.

During the reconstruction period with workmen coming from all parts of Canada numerous cases of smallpox developed. These were of a very light type which made it very hard to prevent spread of the disease as there were cases that were so mild as not to come under medical treatment. Compulsory vaccination is the only remedy for such conditions.

Dartmouth is badly in need of an infectious hospital as there are cases that are very difficult to know what to do with. The loss financially and economically is very great where whole families have to be shut up for weeks.

In common with other communities we were visited by influenza. During the time of greatest prevalence and severity of type stringent measures were taken in regard to quarantine and hospital accomodation. Due to these measures the epidemic was quickly controled.

I would again call the attention to the benefit of systematic collecting of garbage as a means of keeping our town clean, the flthy conditions existing at the relief houses in the north end are neither artistic or healthy. A clean up week should be held this year and Dartmouth would be healthier as the result.

H. A. PAYZANT

Health Officer