

raised here in Montreal, but none of them will carry down to posterity that peculiar possession of almost personal relationship with the great King of the British people.

And here, while touching upon these wider themes, it is right and fitting that this meeting take official cognizance of the passing away within the last few days of another great man intimately associated with our work,—the man, indeed whose discovery of the bacillus and whose masterpiece of demonstration of the essential nature of tuberculosis made the campaign of prevention possible. Generations before Robert Koch it was known that some cases of consumption underwent cure. Generations before, certain communities—but certain communities only—realized that the disease is infectious, but in the absence of sure knowledge the means adopted for its prevention were lamentably deficient. It is, in the nature of things, that the discovery of the *causa causans* of a disease offers the key to a thorough understanding of the phenomena of that disease and of its mode of development and spread. Robert Koch and his discovery made the world-wide campaign against tuberculosis possible. Without the demonstration of the existence of the tubercle bacillus, of its habits of growth and modes of conveyance from man to man, from animal to animal, from animal, I may add, to man, we would remain unprovided with a gospel of means of prevention. We could not advance as we are advancing at present with the sure proclamation that the disease is preventable; we could not surely teach the people how to arm themselves against this greatest social scourge of modern life, and, if it be not presumptuous to strike the personal note, may I add that I am grateful that the honor you have done me in electing me President of this Association, permits me to voice what must be the sentiment of all of us when mentioning the name and achievements of the great Prussian bacteriologist, and this because it has fallen to my lot on more than one occasion, as at the now historical private conference held at the Congress in Washington two years ago, to take a somewhat prominent position in opposition to Koch's attitude, more particularly on the subject of bovine tuberculosis. Two years before Koch's famous pronouncement at London, in 1901, the observation conducted by Dr. C. F. Martin and myself, on behalf of our Government, led us to advise the Minister of Agriculture that the main cause of human infection was from man to man, but at the same time to point out that the very difficulty in the conveyance of tuberculosis from man to cattle, indicated that it was possible by simple methods of isolation to eradicate tuberculosis from among the cattle of the Dominion and thus not only save our farmers from great future loss, but also by the establishment of uninfected herds bring them great future gain. The work of the last ten years only makes