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## THE SMALLPOX.

It must be said that we sincerely regret that smallpox should have made its appearance in the sister city of Vancouver. It did not develop there, but was brought, as the evidence shows, from the East. It is in the highest degree satisfactory to know that the local authorities have not been remiss in the performance of their duty at this juncture. They have acted not alone with promptness, but with vigor, and if the people themselves will only co operate, as is their manifest duty, there cannot be much fear that the disease will spread to any very great extent. To secure this there must be isolation, disinfection and vaccination. A floating hospital has been established, which is possibly the very best way in which isolation can be secured. It is the duty of every householder—to himself, to his family, and to the community—to at once notify the health officer should the disease appear, or there be anything suspicious the matter with any member of his family, while medical men should not hesitate to officially report the circumstances. It is only a few years since a terrible loss of life was caused in the province of Quebec by reason of neglect in this particular, it not being infrequent for the inhabitants of a stricken household to mingle with the sick as if nothing were the matter, and then go out among their fellows as if nothing of the kind prevailed. There is nothing like isolation to prevent contagion from this highly infectious malady.

It may be deemed by some people sufficient to quarantine a house in which there is a patient, but there is a risk of the disease being spread, even through the medical men and others whose business is to visit such places. The smallpox hospital is the proper place for the afflicted, who under ordinary conditions can get really better treatment and attention than at their own homes, for every one connected with such an institution is selected because of his or her qualifications to deal with these special cases. Then all who reside in a house which has had smallpox should be quarantined, not for a couple or three days, but for what is recognized as the ordinary period of smallpox incubation, which, if it does not develop, they should only be allowed to mingle with their fellows after they, their dwelling place, and all their household belongings have been thoroughly disinfected. In these days there are few who will dispute the virtue of vaccination. It has been proved that if it does not in every instance render its object proof against smallpox, it

materially diminishes the intensity of this disease, which it may be remarked finds its most ready victims among those who are physically weak or in localities where the surroundings and drainage are favorable to sicknesses of a zymotic character.

There is one matter in this connection, the necessity of perfecting which the existing condition of things should emphasize—that is the imperative necessity not only of having every incoming ship properly inspected, but of having her quarantined for the full term of incubation should she have either a developed or a suspicious case on board. To our mind, it was not sufficient to have kept the Chinese passengers, as on a recent occasion, in a condition of semi-quarantine at Albert Head. Elsewhere the circumstances would be taken as warranting much more vigorous action. What is done should be thoroughly done, and in that event there can be no fear of smallpox for any one of us. Experience has shown that not only does an outbreak of smallpox cause sickness and death, but it seriously prejudices trade, and that in the estimation of many will be an additional reason why the most stringent precautions as well as curative measures should be adopted.

## REAL ESTATE IN THE EAST.

Although we are inclined to consider that it is out in the Far West and on the Pacific Coast that we must look for real estate booms, it is not here alone that substantial progress is made. It is very true that though, out East they may not have Bogusburg excitements, they are making substantial progress. Take for instance, the city of Montreal. Latterly, probably under the stimulus of Toronto rivalry, her merchants have been stretching out their hands in all directions, and have caused a warm competition to be carried on in all departments of commerce. Not a few of her houses have been forced to enlarge their quarters, although it is true that some which have been going it a little too fast have been unable too maintain the pace and have had to fall out. Montreal capital has found its way to different portions of the Dominion in the promotion of mining and other enterprises, while a most satisfactory sign is found in the fact that real estate has gradually, it is true, but most encouragingly advanced. This is seen in the subjoined figures, taken from the *Real Estate Record* for May. During the first four months of each year from 1888 the total transfers and loans were as follows.—

	No of Sales.	Amount.	Mortgage Loans.
1888	737	\$2,435,513	\$1,236,217
1889	681	3,033,111	1,114,900
1890	736	2,625,921	1,051,798
1891	658	1,723,900	1,266,435
1892	651	3,826,432	1,315,328

For purposes of comparison there should, it is said, be deducted from the returns for 1891 two transfers of an exceptional nature in January, 1891, amounting to \$1,078,413. Much of this property is in the older and more valuable parts of the town, but not a small quantity is in the extensions of and additions to the city, which have been deservedly attracting a good deal of attention.

## A PECULIAR FAILURE.

The requirements of the British Columbia trade for a better, or rather a good Insolvency Law, was never more clearly manifested than when the Courts came to look into the affairs of Allan McLean, grocer, New Westminster, who failed a few days ago. The business was taken over from McLean & Morrison, a month or so ago, and at that time about \$4,500 were covered, which some of the creditors were unable to account for, nor could McLean himself do so. The strangest part of the matter appears to have been that some of the creditors swallowed a flimsy explanation as to how this deficit occurred; but the more level-headed and upright among them are of the impression that the liabilities were either "swelled," duplicated, or payments have been made which have not been recorded. There seems to have been connivance to favor certain interested parties. If this is the case, or if there be even the shadow of such trickery, we hope it will be closely investigated.

## UNDER THE TARIFF.

Until the McKinley tariff came into force, the firm of Edward T. Steel & Co. conducted a large woollen factory at Bradford, England, entirely upon goods for the American market. The McKinley tariff, however, left them only the choice as to whether they should endeavor to hold their American trade by reducing the quality and weight of their goods, or remove their works to the United States. They, in consequence, established themselves at Bristol, Pa., where they are now in full operation. In a circular which they have issued, it is stated that the manufacture of goods will be carried on with the guarantee that they will be up to their previous English standard of weight, wealth and quality without any advance in prices. Last year, the value of imports of woollen goods into the United States was nearly \$25,000,000 less than the year before; but the American people used just as many goods, but of American instead of foreign production, manufactured by American instead of foreign workmen. This increased occupation of American workmen must have been of benefit to American workmen.

In this connection, it may be mentioned that under the Canadian National Policy it has become necessary for American manufacturers of specialties to have their own branch factories—not selling agencies—in some part or other of the Dominion. This has provided for the employment here of people resident and the consumption by them of home productions, or the payment by them of duties on any imported articles which they might consume that did not come in free under the Canadian tariff. We have not, as have our neighbors, any provisions such as there are on the other side in any way restricting alien labor, so that we have a liberty that is not possessed in the much-vaunted "par excellence" land of liberty; but on the other hand we have the benefit of their industry and the expenditures they make among us.