

OTTAWA, October 31, 1908.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a paper read by me at the recent International Congress on Tuberculosis held at Washington, D.C.

In this paper I have confined myself to that phase of the question set forth in the title, viz., 'The Control of Bovine Tuberculosis,' refraining almost entirely from any mention of measures for the protection of the public against possible infection from bovine sources.

Of the two problems connected with bovine tuberculosis, namely, the eradication of the disease from the herds of a country and the protection of the human race from bovine infection, the latter is by far the most simple and easy of solution.

Under the system now followed in Canada, matters of this nature are properly dealt with by the public health authorities operating under provincial laws which, in cases where this has not been already done, can easily be so amended as to furnish the powers necessary for the absolute control of the situation as regards the supply of milk and meat, these products being, needless to say, the most important agents in the communication of tuberculosis from animals to man.

Danger from the first mentioned source can be practically eliminated by providing for the regular veterinary inspection and testing with tuberculin of all herds supplying milk for human consumption; animals reacting to the test or, even in default of reaction, showing clinical evidence of being affected with tuberculosis, to be permanently ear-marked and the use of their milk for human food absolutely prohibited.

This course has been followed in some communities in Manitoba for a considerable time by virtue of amendments made, many years ago, to the Municipal Act of that province.

Similar regulations are in force in several communities in other provinces and I may remind you that, with the view of encouraging and assisting the efforts of municipal authorities in this direction, this branch of your department supplies tuberculin, free of charge, for the use of duly qualified veterinarians, on condition that reports of all tests made are promptly furnished and that reacting animals are properly ear-marked.

The meat supply can be similarly safe-guarded by the abolition of the secret and unsanitary private slaughter-houses and the substitution thereof of municipal abattoirs conducted under the supervision of specially trained and qualified veterinary inspectors as is now done, under the provisions of the Meat and Canned Foods Act, in all establishments engaged in the export or interprovincial meat trade.

A satisfactory, practical solution of the wider problem of the complete eradication of bovine tuberculosis has yet to be found.

While I regret that I am not, at present, in a position to recommend any definite policy with this end in view, I have, in the accompanying paper, made some tentative