

why we should spend money on goitre when there are more pressing problems, I cannot just see; especially as it is not a local trouble, and it is one where we are getting the benefit of world wide investigation without spending money.

"In the Ontario district whence I came, there were certainly no mountains, and, yet, in that little district, there was probably as much goitre as in any similar area in Alberta. In fact, I have seen much more goitre in Ontario than I have in Alberta.

"Of course, if the Commission of Conservation or the Dominion took it up and really succeeded in finding the cause of the trouble, and in finding also a remedy, it would be quite a noted feat on their part. On page 2 of *Goitre in Alberta*, Dr. Ritchie says that thousands of people of untainted blood have settled here and are rapidly falling victims to the disease. The question is: When the doctor admits that these cases take twenty to thirty years to develop, how does he know that the sufferer's blood was untainted when he settled here, or whether it was really in the system, and whether any infection - if you could call it such - did arise in Alberta?"

"If this disease were of the importance attached to it by Dr. Ritchie - and we do not contend it is unimportant - since the women of the country are the ones it probably attacks the most and in which the swelling in the neck shows the most, one would think that they would be petitioning, through their Women's Councils, to have this trouble investigated and, if possible, eliminated; but, as far as I know, none of them have mentioned anything of this nature, but they are most strenuously mentioning such diseases as tuberculosis, which is rendering unfit for service so many in the province.

"Because goitre develops in British Columbia and in Alberta in cases where it had not developed prior to coming here, does not, in my opinion, prove that they would not have had it had they remained where they were."

Dr. T. H. Whitelaw, Medical Officer of Health for Edmonton, Alta., wrote as follows:

"After a residence of 10 years in Edmonton, during the first 10 years of which I was in general practice, afterwards filling the position of Medical Officer of Health for the city, I cannot say, in so far as this district is concerned, I can see any justification whatever for Dr. Ritchie's sweeping statement regarding goitre. It is apparent that, 10 years ago, a great majority of the adults then living in the Province of Alberta had not been born in the province, but had migrated from other parts of the world; even at the present time, I think it would be reasonable to say that the majority of the inhabitants of our province were not born here. I am personally acquainted with a great many 'old-timers' and their families, who were here when I came here 10 years ago, and I cannot say that I recollect seeing a single case of goitre among them. It would be interesting to know how many of the genuine cases of goitre in Alberta are native-born Albertans. There are, it is true, a certain number of cases of goitre here, but not, in my opinion, any more than there are in other parts of Canada. As to Dr. Ritchie's statement of the large number of cases in Calgary, I question very strongly whether he has