

that class of our community which—and not the miners of the Klondyke, the smelters of Cape Breton, the manufacturers of Quebec and Ontario, or the dealers in cattle across the line—is and must continue to be the mainstay of Canadian prosperity. I mean the Canadian farmers.

As I have pointed out elsewhere, the practical eradication of bovine tuberculosis in Canada, is no vain imagining. In Denmark, already, within a few years, the prevalence of tuberculosis in cattle has been reduced from 40 to 23.9 per cent. In Canada the disease has as yet gained little foothold. All the information in our possession indicates that its prevalence is less than 1 per cent. It would thus require a relatively small sum for our Government to make bovine tuberculosis practically unknown. There is no other country so favorably situated. Denmark has found its heroic effort a very heavy labor; it, as I say, had 40 per cent. of its cattle affected. It has afforded the outlay and is already reaping the benefit. We must do the same. We must do this from economic reasons because of the terrible loss which the spread of tuberculosis would surely bring upon our agricultural community. There is no question that with increased intercourse tuberculosis has spread rapidly in the Eastern States during the last 15 years. This disease, it is estimated, causes at the present time the annual loss of \$18,000,000 in Germany alone, and with this the absolute ruin of many individuals. Nor is this the only reason. The very fact that in Great Britain, where tuberculosis has during the last 30 years decreased marvellously, no decrease has taken place in intestinal tuberculosis in young children, indicates that in these children there is some cause at work not effective at other life periods and, by exclusion, this other cause can only be the drinking of milk from tuberculous cattle. I do not say—I do not believe—that in Canada with the rareness of bovine tuberculosis in general and with the extraordinary rarity of the most dangerous form, namely, tuberculosis of the mammary glands, we have at the present moment very much to fear on this account. Nevertheless, there must be individual cases of the spread of the disease from cattle to man, and it is our duty as a people to eradicate tuberculosis in cattle lest, spreading, the little children becomes exposed to danger.

But here I am allowing myself to digress from the strict lines of my main contention, which is, that this prevention of tuberculosis is a national matter, one fraught with as great benefit as we can well imagine to the health and prosperity of the country. What we have now to determine is how far can the Government proceed in the attempt to repress tuberculosis. It seems to me that the parts which can be played by the federal and provincial governments in this matter can best be indicated,