

**An English Insurance Agent** The same process of reasoning by which an insurance agent of London, and Vaccination Eng., convinced himself that vaccination would be injurious to the health of his children, if applied to everything in life, would create great confusion. This insurance agent was an applicant to the magistrates, at Tottenham, for exemption under the new Vaccination Act for his two children. Being required to satisfy the magistrates with a good and sufficient reason for declining to believe in the innocuity of a virus taken either directly or indirectly from cows, the fond father advanced his insurance experience of five years, as proving by influence or deduction the danger of submitting his *two bairns* to the vaccinator. The magistrates asking for a further explanation, the insurance applicant for exemption from the requirements of the Act said that he "had seen all manner of diseases which were attributable to vaccination." Strange to say, the application was granted, the magistrates contenting themselves with saying that the applicant evidently knew very little about the matter.

As an English exchange, the *Insurance Observer*, very rightly remarks, "it is, to say the least, unusual to find an insurance experience being quoted as an argument against vaccination." Perhaps a visitation of small-pox may change this fond and foolish father's views of what to attribute to vaccination.

**Interesting to Canadian Shippers.** Australian shipping men and those interested in the meat trade at Melbourne and Sydney are wrestling with a very singular question which only botanical investigation can satisfactorily settle. It is stated that a shipment of beef was officially affirmed to be bone-tainted, and was duly condemned as such. Upon the fact being made known to the original owners of the meat, they put in a plea that, although the meat might smell and taste as if bone-tainted, it was not bone-tainted; in fact, not damaged at all. They claimed that the cattle sometimes feed upon a plant which makes them smell and taste so strongly of bone-taint as to deceive all who are deficient in knowledge of the flora and fauna of Australia; but that some buyers might be found for the meat who, knowing all about this strange plant, would waive objections to the smell and taste of the meat, and learn to like it, even as some modern believers in the doctrines of Epicurus profess to enjoy decidedly "high" venison. Against the official decision that this Australian meat was tainted, the shippers appealed to the magistrate; but he declined to believe in the botanical story, and so far as he could be understood through the pocket-handkerchief with which he held his nose, peremptorily ordered the meat to be buried. It is possible that epicurean taste is different in degree from the taste of vulgar mortals; but it would be unfair to assume that this magistrate was prejudiced and narrow-minded simply because he objected to Clo-

cina reigning as mistress at the festive board. So the apparently bone-tainted meat was destroyed, and, instead of being used as food, the meat became a fertilizer.

Meanwhile, to prevent "erroneous and hurtful opinions" on the subject of Australian meat and the meat trade being promulgated abroad, all sorts of suggestions are being made for men engaged in the raising of cattle, and the sale of meat to consider. It is regrettable that some of the advice tendered to Australian shippers cannot be accepted as serious. One very respectable banking journal suggests that Australian botanists with the aid of a tame steer should locate, describe and name this hitherto unknown, evil smelling, and worse tasting plant; and that this being accomplished the cattle should be taught botany enough to avoid spoiling their flesh for human food by the indulgence of a depraved taste and a very unhealthy appetite. That every one should wish to know more of a plant causing such loss to shippers and such confusion among learned professors engaged in botanical research is not to be wondered at. If it is possible for well brought up cattle grazing in far-away Australia to refresh themselves with a plant which makes them "smell and taste" for all the world as if they were tainted, it is high time for Australians engaged in the meat trade to show concern thereat. The peculiar but unavailing plea of the meat owners in this case may also lead to some reasonable explanation of a minor evil of the same character in Montreal. Perhaps, the smell and taste of some of the milk sold in the Canadian metropolis is owing to some undiscovered plant growing on the banks of one of the brooks or rivulets which flow through the pastures of Ville Marie. But the sediment must be raised elsewhere.

**Tax Collector too tardy.**

Rates and taxes are by many regarded as a pecuniary burden, imposed by authority, the payment of which should be avoided for as long a period as possible. However, it is useless to make a levy of any kind upon property for the support of a government, unless a properly organized effort to collect the tribute or impost be made. In the case of a recent failure in a certain Canadian city, a statement of affairs submitted to the suffering creditors showed the city as a preferred claimant for some \$1,700, the total taxes levied upon the bankrupt for at least four years. As payment of the amount will absorb almost the entire assets of this evasive tax-payer, the ordinary creditors are naturally indignant at the lamentable laxity of the tax collectors. Special legislation ought to be framed for the protection of those who suffer by the collection of such a claim as the one in question.

Now, from across the seas, from far away Australasia, comes a story of too kindly treatment of taxpayers which has aroused the people of Sydney, New South Wales, to the point of feverish denunciation of