

A PLEA FOR A PURE MILK SUPPLY

BY

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One excuse for the writing of this paper, if one is needed, is the fact that in British Columbia there is no law, compelling dealers in milk to conform to a standard in regard to the quality and cleanliness in milk. In fact insofar as British Columbia is concerned, there is not provincial law of any kind governing the sale of milk. The situation calls for the gravest consideration. Up to a few months ago it is true, that there was a law, an absolute meaningless and unworkable act in force, through which milkmen were able to deliver dirty milk, fearlessly knowing that they could not be punished. The fat percentage required by the act, was much lower than that required anywhere else, and no bacterial content as mentioned. Even this poor excuse for a law was knocked down and out by Justice Clement, and his judgment was sustained on appeal to the full court. The situation at present is this,—there is a Dominion law supposed to be in force, requiring a certain percentage of fat, solids, etc., in milk, and through the pure food laws the milkman can be gotten at for adding adulterants. But strange to say, there is no official here to whom the power of prosecution is delegated. The customs officers are supposed to have this power, but have never exercised their prerogative. According to Justice Clement's ruling, no Province or Municipality in Canada has the power to pass laws governing the sale of that most universal of foods—milk. In the Dominion Act there is no mention made of a bacteriological standard, which is the most essential factor in getting pure milk supplied.

To sum it then, in British Columbia we are absolutely at sea, no local laws of any kind on the milk question and no one to test milk and carry on prosecution under the Dominion Act, which is at least a sorely defective one. The question of