

## London Advertiser.

(ESTABLISHED BY JOHN CAMERON IN 1853.)

Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron

London, Saturday, Nov. 18.

## The Crusade Against Consumption.

Dr. Edward Farrell, of Halifax, N.S., the Canadian delegate to the Congress on Tuberculosis, held in Berlin, Germany, on May 24, 25 and 26, of this year, has communicated his report to Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture. The report, which has been published in pamphlet form, should be circulated as widely as possible. It is a clear and readable synopsis of the work of the Congress, the writer having avoided technical phraseology as far as possible, so as to make it intelligible to the lay mind. The conference was attended by delegates from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Persia, Japan and most of the European countries, Germany being represented by many of her most distinguished medical scientists. The Congress was considered under four heads:

1. Dissemination of tuberculosis.
2. Its causes.
3. Prevention.
4. Treatment and sanatoria.

The first head was discussed by Dr. Kohle, director of the Imperial Health Office in Berlin, Dr. Krieger, Dr. Schjerning, chief medical officer of the German war office, Prof. Bollinger, of Munich, Dr. Schmid, director of the Swiss Health Office, Dr. Kuthy, of Buda-Pesth, and others. Dr. Kohle gave statistics to show that the disease was more prevalent in cities and large towns than in the country districts. Of the cities London, Naples, and Buenos Ayres, gave the lowest mortality, and Vienna, Buda-Pesth, Moscow and St. Petersburg, the highest. Dr. Krieger pointed out that the disease was particularly liable to take the form of consumption in those who led sedentary lives, and those whose occupations led to the inhalation of irritating dust, which lessened the resisting power in the bronchial tubes. Prof. Bollinger dwelt on the identity of the disease in cattle and hogs with human tuberculosis. Milk and its products from infected cattle were most to be dreaded.

The second head, etiology, was discussed by such eminent men as Fluegge, Fraenkel, Pfeiffer, Loeffler, Lannelongue and Courmont. Prof. Fluegge gave a history of the study of the causes of tuberculosis leading up to the established fact that the tubercle bacillus is the direct cause of all varieties of consumption in the human subject and also of bovine tuberculosis. Tubercle bacilli were parasites which flourished in living animal tissue, but quickly lost virulence outside the animal organism. Prof. Fraenkel gave the same testimony. Every human being or animal infected with tuberculosis was a center from which the disease spread. If the patient is removed, the infection, to a great extent, ceases, for the bacilli have little vitality outside the organism. Direct sunlight, putrefaction and desiccation soon destroy them. Prof. Loeffler contended that hereditary consumption was very rare. It may occur through infection from the genitals of the mother, but a tuberculosis father does not transmit the disease. Dr. Max Wolff, of Berlin, showed, as the result of experiments, that but one of sixty infected animals transmitted the disease to its offspring.

Concerning prevention, Dr. Roth, of Potsdam, claimed that the public health boards should deal with consumption and provide the means of prevention. The expectorated matter was the great danger; the sputum of the patient must be destroyed. He advised spittoons made of paper, which could be burned every day. Dr. Heubner, Berlin, said that children were very susceptible to infection, and should be kept apart from members of the family suffering from consumption. Prof. Kirschner condemned the marriage of tuberculous persons, which meant infection of husband, or wife, or children. Prof. Rubner pleaded for better sanitary arrangements in factories, to avoid overcrowding, imperfect ventilation and dust-laden atmosphere. No one should be allowed to spit in public conveyances. Prof. Von Leube held that wherever possible, it was better to separate tuberculous from other patients in general hospitals. Tuberculous patients should be in the act of coughing hold a pad of absorbent cotton over the mouth, and the cotton should be immediately burned. Veils should be worn by those making the bed or dusting. Prof. Virchow, the great biologist, spoke of the prevention of tuberculosis from articles of food. Cattle, by their meat and milk, hogs, and to some extent poultry, spread the disease. The tuberculosis test should be employed to discover its existence. Milk must be sterilized. Dr. Von Maar urged the necessity of instructing farmers and breeders on the importance of having buildings for their cattle light, airy, well-ventilated and scrupulously clean.

The question of treating the disease called forth several papers by eminent German and British specialists, and created an interesting discussion. The principal facts brought out were: That much better results are obtained since disinfection and the open-air treatment have been practiced; that recovery is only possible when the disease is attacked in its early stage; that climate is not considered so important as it once was, and that all healthy climates can be used, so long as a good diet and plenty of time in the open air can be obtained, although high altitudes and marine climate have ad-

vantages; that treatment in sanatoria is to be preferred, and for the poor is a necessity, and that the erection of numerous sanatoria for the people is therefore a national requirement for the cure, the prevention and extermination of tuberculosis. In connection with this subject, Prof. Von Leyden pointed out that since 1892, when the movement began, thirty-three sanatoria had been erected in Germany.

Dr. Farrell subjoins to his report some advice and inferences of his own, for the instruction of Canadian medical and health authorities. He emphasizes the fact that tuberculosis is not limited to cases of pulmonary consumption, but embraces such diseases as consumption of the lungs, almost all cases of running sores, from chronic joint and bone affections, consumption of the bowels, the so-called scrofulous affections, most of the cases of pleurisy, meningitis or the brain-fever of the infant, tuberculosis of the spine, producing curvature or "broken back," a large proportion of the cases of enlarged and diseased glands, lupus and other tubercular diseases of the skin, and consumption of the bladder, and other parts of the genito-urinary organs. The mortality from tuberculosis in its various forms is estimated at one-sixth of the deaths from all causes. The disease is produced by the tubercle germ or bacillus, which is derived solely from the excreta of tuberculous sores, and as lung consumption is the most common form of disease, the most prolific source of the poison is the expectoration from a diseased lung. It is this, the sputum of a consumptive patient, which spreads disease and death through a family and its neighborhood. It occurs most commonly from spitting upon the floor, the carpet, or into dark corners, of a room, or in store, factory, railway carriage, street car, public hall, where the sputum dries into dust, which, loaded with virulent germs, is stirred up and breathed by the susceptible. For that reason we must deal with the disease as an infectious one, the same as smallpox or diphtheria. All expectorated matter from a consumptive patient must be chemically disinfected, burned or boiled. It is true that all persons who inhale tubercle germs do not contract consumption, as their tissues do not furnish a favorable soil. A person whose standard of health is low presents a favorable soil for the growth of disease germs, but if the body be well nourished, and in vigorous health, the tissue is an unfavorable soil, although continual exposure to the disease germs will overcome the best resisting power. To prevent consumption, then, we must:

- (1) Kill the germ, (2) have good health and nourish the body well with good food, sunlight and fresh air. Medical men should recommend and boards of health should require that sick rooms of the consumptive should be frequently disinfected. Again, all their underclothing, handkerchiefs, bed linen and the like should be boiled for half an hour before being washed, and dry dusting and sweeping should be abolished as a means of cleanliness. The ordinary treatment may be summed up under four heads:

1. Sunlight, open air, rest, dry soil for the home.
2. A good digestion and contentment.
3. An abundance of strong food, which should be taken to the limit of the digestive power.
4. Medication of a constructive character, such as iron, cod liver oil and the like, with a moderate quantity of wine, beer or other stimulants.

Dr. Farrell concludes with the hope that the Dominion Government, in concert with provincial and municipal authorities, will see the pressing need there is, both for humane and economic reasons, to begin such a campaign against tuberculosis as will stamp it out of Canada in a few years.

## The Manitoba Elections.

The Manitoba elections will take place on Dec. 7. Premier Greenway has good ground for the confidence with which he appeals for re-election as Premier for the fourth time. Such is his record, and the record of his Government, that it is hard to see where the Opposition can secure even a foothold. It has been fortunate for Manitoba that at critical junctures in its history its affairs have been in hands so loyal to provincial rights, and so firm in maintaining them. It was the Greenway Government that fought the coercive policy of the Dominion Government with reference to railway monopoly, and again in the matter of national schools. Mr. Greenway has waged the same battle for Manitoba, and is entitled to the same gratitude and support.

The Greenway Government have shown singular enterprise and foresight in dealing with the conditions of a new country, and in making provision for its growth and development. This is illustrated in their railway policy. As the Premier points out in his manifesto, the Government have secured the construction of 1,200 miles of railway in the past twelve years. The Administration has worked unremittingly to break up monopoly and to reduce the cost of transportation a matter vital to the welfare of the Province. Now that Manitoba is entering on an era of remarkable expansion, and new problems are arising with the growth of wealth and population, the Province should stick to its tried and trusted stewards, and not experiment with inexperienced men.

Ald. Black, of Ottawa, wants the number of aldermen in that city reduced, and is urging the council to ask the Legislature to permit the ratepayers to vote on the question next January. Ald. Black evidently does not share the opinion of the London Free Press that the safety of the city lies in the quantity, not in the quality, of the municipal representation.

The newspaper correspondents in South Africa seem to be doing more fighting that writing.

There is one redeeming feature about British military blunders—they always bring out British heroism in its finest colors.

Toronto newspapers are struggling hard, but so far without success, to induce the people of that military hotbed to raise \$4,000 to insure the lives of the Toronto troops who went to South Africa. In London a private citizen has already done that for the local contingent. We are not so vociferous in our patriotism as is Toronto, either.

It transpires that the bad meat which had to be thrown off the British transports came from the United States and not the colonies, as an American press agency had it. This relieves the American packers of the charge of disloyalty by showing that they were not discriminating against their own country in the Spanish-American war, but were ready to palm off embalmed beef on all countries alike.

Victoria reports say the North Pacific sealing season just closed was a good one. Some 25,000 skins, worth about \$400,000, were taken, 26 vessels being engaged, the average earning being about \$15,000. Some of the Opposition papers say the business is too profitable for Canadians to surrender for the price of the plant employed, which was one of the Quebec commission propositions. But that proposition was contingent upon the Americans giving us something in exchange. This they have not yet done, so the sealing bargain is off for the meantime.

The Toronto World suggests that the conservation of public rights in connection with street railways would be a live issue for the Ontario bye-elections. It advocates, among other things, that no trolley franchise shall exceed fifteen years, and that every municipality shall have the right to acquire any trolley system within its limits. The World's policy, both with respect to street and steam railways, is courageous, and has much to commend it. But does the World hope ever to inoculate its party leaders with the same ideas? They are today the most resolute opponents of railway reform.

The Mail and Empire flounders over the "plurality" of 1,411 obtained in 1898 over Mr. Bonfield, and his "plurality" of 463 over both his opponents. Unless the authorities are wrong the latter was his "majority."—Ottawa Free Press.

Both the Mail and the Free Press confound the term "plurality" and "majority." When more than two candidates are in the field, a plurality signifies the excess of votes given any one candidate over another candidate, but it is possible that neither one of the three has a majority. For instance, if Jones polls 8 votes, Smith 6 votes and Robinson 3 votes, Jones has a plurality of 2 votes over Smith and 5 votes over Robinson. Smith has also a plurality of 3 votes over Robinson. But neither one has a majority, and the word "majority" should not be used in such a case. If Smith had polled 10 votes he could claim a majority of 1 and a plurality of 4.

## Light and Shade.

"Wigsby strokes his nose as though he loved it."

"Yes, he's strongly attached to it, you know."

Teacher—Tommy, who was Joan of Arc?

Tommy (who is considered great at guessing)—Noah's wife.—Home Guard.

"Whenever Jimason starts to tell a story he says: 'Maybe you've heard this one before.'"

"Then what?"

"I always say I have."

"Well?"

"Well, then he tells it just the same."

MacSymon—I saw you were carrying for the professor yesterday, Sandy.

How does he play?

Sandy—Eh, you man 'I never be a

"Well, then he tells it just the same."

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