

and evasively denies, in various general contradictory statements, any such neglect.

The documents and certificates purported to be issued by the Canadian or American Quarantine Officer, now in possession of the City Health Officer of Toronto, clearly proves that no regular system of inspection and disinfection is carried out, and no official records are kept of such inspection and disinfection for future reference. This want of system and thoroughness is further substantiated by the fact that the Canadian Quarantine Officer, in order to disprove any alleged neglect in his duty, was obliged to call in the assistance of an officer of the United States Marine Health Service, who, it would appear, was equally as negligent, in that his fellow-officer, under the same Government, refused to accept certificates of disinfection issued by him.

The method of tagging baggage, as resorted to by the Canadian Quarantine Officer, might be accepted as the most improved arrangement in the time of William the Conqueror, but with the experience and opportunities of observation afforded since that time, it would not require originality, to any large degree, to conclude that the gum label is the well-tried and most rapid method of tagging baggage of any form or description.

Further carelessness is demonstrated in the issue of certificates, which are neither numbered nor issued in duplicate, the duplicates to be kept in the files of the Quarantine office in the form of a counter-foil.

Here, again, reference might be made to the antiquated method of inserting dates with pen or pencil (largely the latter), adopted by the Quarantine office, instead of using the most modern and decidedly the speediest and most accurate arrangement—the rubber date stamp. The present form of certificate issued by the Quarantine Officer does not prevent it being reused. The excuse offered as to the error occurring in dating the certificates in possession of the eight Poles, the veracity of which will not be questioned here, savours of exceedingly bad management, which would not be tolerated by any banking institution, and why should it be by the public authorities?

It is therefore apparent that the management of the Quarantine stations is so conducted that when errors, whether of a serious character or otherwise,

occur they cannot be proven for the want of proper official Quarantine records.

The circumstances, as stated heretofore, should be sufficient to lead the Dominion Government authorities to arrive at the one conclusion, namely, the appointment of a Dominion Board of Health such as is in existence in all civilized countries of the world, giving it charge over all matters pertaining to life and health of the public, and empowering it with unlimited executive supervision over all Local or Provincial Health Boards. Sanitary science, although in its infancy in the present age of civilization in this fair Dominion, is forcing itself into more prominence daily by reason of the constantly increasing population. For the self-same reason the Imperial Government, more than thirty years ago, appointed a Metropolitan Health Commission which deal with the vital statistics, sewage disposal, water supply, meteorology, ventilation, quarantine, disinfection, zymotic diseases, and hospitals.

The recent difficulty experienced by Canadian cattle shippers on their exportation to Great Britain, on account of the suspected pleuropneumonia, should urge the Government to move in this direction. The interference and strong inconvenience to commerce should be a factor.

It is to be hoped that the Dominion authorities may be awakened to the necessity of establishing a Dominion Board of Health as speedily as possible, in order that the best interests of the country may be served, maintained and protected.

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#### DR. RYERSON HONOURED.

Dr. G. Sterling Ryerson, M.P.P., Surgeon of the Royal Grenadiers, Secretary of the Association of Medical Officers of the Militia, has received a communication from England, saying that at a meeting of the Chapter General of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, he had been elected an Honourary Associate, and that his selection had received the sanction of the Queen, the sovereign head and patron. This is an ancient chivalrous order, whose members devoted their time to humane work. They were formerly the Knights Hospitaller of Jerusalem, organized for the succouring of poor pilgrims at the time of the Cru-