

once successfully is a certain amount of protection against taking smallpox, and a fair certainty that the disease will be mild.

2nd. Repeated successful vaccination in the one person is almost an absolute protection against the disease, and a certainty if the disease be contracted it will not terminate fatally.

3rd. In children, persons known to be very susceptible to the disease, vaccination from the foregoing facts is a strong protection against the disease and almost a certainty that if taken the disease will be mild.

And now for a few points in Mr. Greig's letter. The "theory of vaccination is not discredited by medical scientists of to-day," Koch, of Germany, for instance. I might also inform Mr. Greig, which I believe a man of his intelligence must be aware, that the law of England requires all children to be vaccinated before reaching the third month; but in certain districts the guardians do not enforce this law, and not, as Mr. Greig says, throughout the Kingdom.

Mr. Greig says: "We are told that vaccination and isolation are the only two effectual methods known to science at present of combatting smallpox, and he adds that cleanliness, both personal and municipal, are the *only effectual methods*." Were Mr. Greig a medical man and not a layman he would understand that cleanliness, both in persons and surroundings, is the foundation upon which medicine is built. Vaccination to be successful must be accompanied throughout with proper cleanliness, and hence when medical men have neglected this precaution some of Mr. Greig's great bugaboos—erysipelas, blood-poisonings, etc.—will have materialized, perhaps only in proportion of 1 to 5,000 of those vaccinated, a very small proportion compared with the number of deaths of those unvaccinated.

I will conclude by directing Mr. Greig's attention to the following paragraph from the report of the Royal Commission, which gave him a hearing:

"Against this universal consent of all who had made a professional study of the question, we offered to take the evidence of all who professed the contrary opinion. Two champions presented themselves. One, who appeared much the stronger in his views, had confessedly not studied the question at all, and the mere vehemence of the expression of his opinions of course entitled them to no weight, but rather detracted from their impressiveness. The other, Mr. Greig, had devoted a great deal of time and study to the subject of vaccination; and adduced a vast quantity of figure in support of his propositions, which were chiefly that (1) vaccinia is in no degree a protection against smallpox, but rather predisposes to the disease, (2) the Austrian statistics show that the mortality per cent. in vaccinated cases is

nearly double that of the unvaccinated; (3) smallpox in the 18th century was not usually fatal, nor an object of dread, except among infants; it was in fact a merely infantile disorder; (4) vaccinia in itself was a highly dangerous disease, though perhaps not so immediately fatal as smallpox, but with a high probability of conveying into the vaccinated persons various deadly poisons; erysipelas syphilitic, and scorbutic disorders, consumption, and etc., more to be dreaded than smallpox itself. These propositions are so utterly contrary to all the accepted ideas of educated persons, and to all common knowledge, that we examined a little into the tables and figures adduced. But we found that they were all (with one exception) merely one-sided, extracted, or constructed, in order to support a foregone conclusion (though we are quite sure that Mr. Greig did not think so, and, in fact, that it would be impossible to persuade him to that effect) and utterly unworthy of any reliance. The exception to which we allude, the only one in which the whole case was placed before us, was the Blue Book on the Parliamentary investigation in the Norwich case. Mr. Greig handed this Blue Book up to us in order that we might see the *ipsissima verba* of one or two witnesses, contained in one or two lines. This, of course, we declined to do, and looked at the whole report."

This, in the opinion of the commissioners, was so extraordinary as to completely explode the whole case of the anti-vaccinationists.

ANOTHER M. D.



ROYAL COMMISSION.

THE following Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into certain matters concerning the Nakusp and Slocan Railway is published for general information. By Command,

A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.

REPORT.

To the Honourable Edgar Dewdney, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of British Columbia:

We, the undersigned Commissioners appointed by the Commission of the twentieth day of April, 1894, to inquire into certain matters therein mentioned, concerning the Nakusp and Slocan Railway Company, have the honor to report that the manner in which that inquiry has been made, and the evidence taken therein, will appear by the record of the proceedings of the Commission, which we have the honour to submit herewith.

It will be seen from the notes of evidence that, though full notice was given of the time and place of sitting, and also, in our opinion, a sufficient intimation that the reasonable expenses of witnesses would be recouped to them through the Commissioners, no one has thought

fit to appear in support of the accusations.

The only person from whom we have received any assistance in this direction has been the Hon. Robert Beaven, M.P.P., who, though not responsible for making the charges, brought forward some facts upon which he suggested the absentee accusers might have relied.

These were, first: Irregularity in acting upon the Statute of 1893 before it had actually been brought into force, which could only be done by an Order in Council.

But this seems, though an irregularity, to be quite inadequate to support the charge of corruption against the Minister. The Statute of 1893 was brought into operation by an Order in Council almost immediately afterwards. The whole transaction has been confirmed and ratified by the Statute of 1894, and the irregularity, so far from demonstrating that the Minister was then the agent of the Company, points distinctly in the opposite direction, since it would have been the first care and duty of such an agent to see that everything was in order.

And secondly: Mr. Beaven pointed out that, in the opinion of many persons, the undertaking which the Statute of 1894 imposed upon the Government, in lieu of that under the Statute of the former year, was so manifestly disadvantageous that it was to be inferred that it could only have been introduced and supported through corrupt motives; though it must be added that he did not make such a charge.

It does not follow, of course, that a bad bargain must be a corrupt bargain. An honest Minister, with no motive or desire except to serve his Province, might make a mistake. We do not wish to suggest for a moment that any such mistake has occurred in the matter into which we have been inquiring. On the contrary, we think that under the evidence adduced, and the arguments addressed to us, only one conclusion is open to us, and that is that the arrangement for the construction of the Nakusp and Slocan Railway, which was ratified by the Act of 1894, is more advantageous to the Province than the arrangement contemplated by the Act of 1893, and we have had no difficulty in arriving at that conclusion. But, however that may be, on the issues more directly submitted to us by the Commission, there is, we think, no room for doubt, and we find as follows, that is to say:—

Firstly: That the Honourable the Premier of the Province, in advising the guarantee mentioned in the said Commission, did not work for the Company, but worked for the Province;

Secondly: That the statement made by the Honourable Member for Nanaimo District, in his place in the Legislative Assembly, that it appeared that the Honourable the Leader of the Government had been working for the Company and not for the Province, is not true;

Thirdly: That no corrupt motives of any kind existed with or influenced Your Honour's Ministers in the advice tendered by them to Your Honour in relation to the Nakusp and Slocan Railway Company;

Fourthly: That no one of Your Honour's Ministers has had, or has, any interest, directly or indirectly, in

(a) The Nakusp and Slocan Railway Company, or

(b) In the Construction Company by which such railway is being built; or

(c) In any contract by or with either of the said Companies, either in furnishing materials or supplies, or in any way whatsoever.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Dated on the 15th day of May, A.D. 1894.

MATT. B. REGGIE,
GEO. W. BURBIDGE, } Commissioners.