

THE COMMERCIAL

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The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much
larger circulation among the business community
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facturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada

WINNIPEG, MARCH 11, 1899.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Winnipeg people, or at least a considerable number of citizens are greatly agitated over the question of tuberculosis. In fact something of a scare exists at the present time over this matter. A Dominion government veterinarian has been examining the city dairies and found that almost fifty per cent of the cows which are used to supply the citizens with milk, are affected with this terrible scourge of animal life, which spares neither man nor beast. It has taken a long time to arouse public opinion here to the danger of the situation, but at last the citizens seem to be thoroughly aroused. Several things have worked together to contribute to this result; but probably the statements of one of the city dairymen has been the principal cause in creating the present interest in the matter. This milk vendor did not believe that tuberculosis was communicated from animals to human beings through the consumption of milk, and he, like many others, regarded the tuberculin test as a fad. Several of his cows were subjected to the test and declared diseased. Their milk was given to calves, and the calves soon contracted the disease. In this way the dairyman was convinced and he stated his convictions and related his experiences in such a forcible manner at a public meeting held recently that it had the effect of thor-

oughly arousing the citizens. Since then other meetings have been held, and it seems likely that some plan will be adopted whereby the interest of the citizens will be safeguarded. It has been proposed that a company should be formed to handle the milk of the different dairies. All the milk would be delivered at a central depot where it would be sterilized before being distributed to the citizens.

The present unsatisfactory state of the city dairies is largely owing to the weakness, or possibly the unbelief of the city aldermen as to the danger of spreading disease in this way. Two or three years ago measures were undertaken for the inspection and supervision of the city dairies, but the half-hearted way in which the matter was handled by the city council, led to the failure of the efforts then taken to improve the situation. The necessity for careful and strict regulations for the control of the city dairies, should be apparent to every one, even aside from the question of tuberculosis. Scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid fever and other diseases are known to have been transmitted by milk. Some of the Winnipeg dairies are known to be in a very filthy condition. As for tuberculosis, it is now generally admitted by experts that this disease in cattle is the same as the disease commonly called consumption, which may be described as the great scourge of mankind. Some people profess to consider the tuberculin test as a fad, and the danger of transmitting the diseases from animals to man as a scare-crow. A long series of experiments, carried on for years in about all civilized countries, has proved however, that the test is almost infallible, and the danger of transmission only too real. Over two years ago The Commercial published a series of articles dealing with tuberculosis and giving the experience gained in dealing with the disease in Germany, Denmark and other countries. This evidence has been confirmed by later experience. It is now believed by many eminent physicians and scientists in various countries, who have made a special study of this matter, that diseased milk and diseased meat are the principal distributors of consumption. A number of other diseases, which have been known under different names, such as cholera infantum, hip disease, lupus, etc., are now declared to be due to the presence of tubercular germs. It is foolish for any one who does not possess any knowledge of medical science to sneer at the declarations of the men who have made a life study of these matters. Medical men have made mistakes in the past, it is true, but the great extent to which the investigations have been carried leave hardly

a shadow of doubt as to the correctness of the present theories regarding the nature of consumption and the reasons for the great prevalence of the scourge. If the public were prepared to carry out regulations based on our present knowledge of the disease, tubercular consumption would be practically eradicated within a few decades.

Of course it is not to be inferred that the cattle throughout the country generally are so badly affected with tuberculosis as the city dairy cows. Cows kept in city dairies are far more subject to the disease than other animals. At the same time, it is quite probable that many farm herds are affected, and to cope with this situation systematic effort is necessary. In the meantime consumers of animal flesh can protect themselves by eating only thoroughly cooked meat. In the case of milk, where there is any reason to believe that it is infected, it can be sterilized by heating to a temperature of 160 degrees, and keeping it at this temperature for twenty minutes.

Some Assiniboia Trade Centres

In a previous letter on the towns of Assiniboia the reader was taken from Moosomin to Indian Head in a brief review of business conditions and the material development of the towns along the way. The district covered by that letter, and which it is proposed to cover in this, comprises practically the whole of the wheat raising region tributary to the main line of the C. P. R. in the Territories. West of Moose Jaw lies the great Canadian cattle ranges which are destined in time to become an important factor in the production of the beef supply of eastern Canada and the old country. The towns and villages of that region will be taken up in a future letter, meanwhile, we have to deal with some of the most important points in the grain section of Assiniboia, namely, the towns from Qu'Appelle to Moose Jaw on the main line.

Qu'Appelle station was once noted as the distributing point for most of the trade with the numerous posts and stores in the immense country which lies to the north of the C. P. R. main line in this part of the Territories. It was also the railway supply point for Prince Albert. Since the Regina and Long Lake railway was opened for traffic, Qu'Appelle has lost much of its northern trade, and the character of the business done here has changed greatly. Having equal advantages with its neighbors on both sides as a farmer's market, it is now being developed along these lines. The picturesque trader or freighter with his cayuse and Red river cart is no longer to be seen on its streets, unless at rare intervals, but the sturdy farmer with his well-bred horses and smart looking wagon or sleigh is becoming more and more in evidence. The country tributary to Qu'Appelle is well adapted for mixed farming. The settlers are mostly all Ontario farmers, and are well-to-do. The town is 323 miles west of Winnipeg, and has a population of about 350. It is officially known as Qu'Ap-